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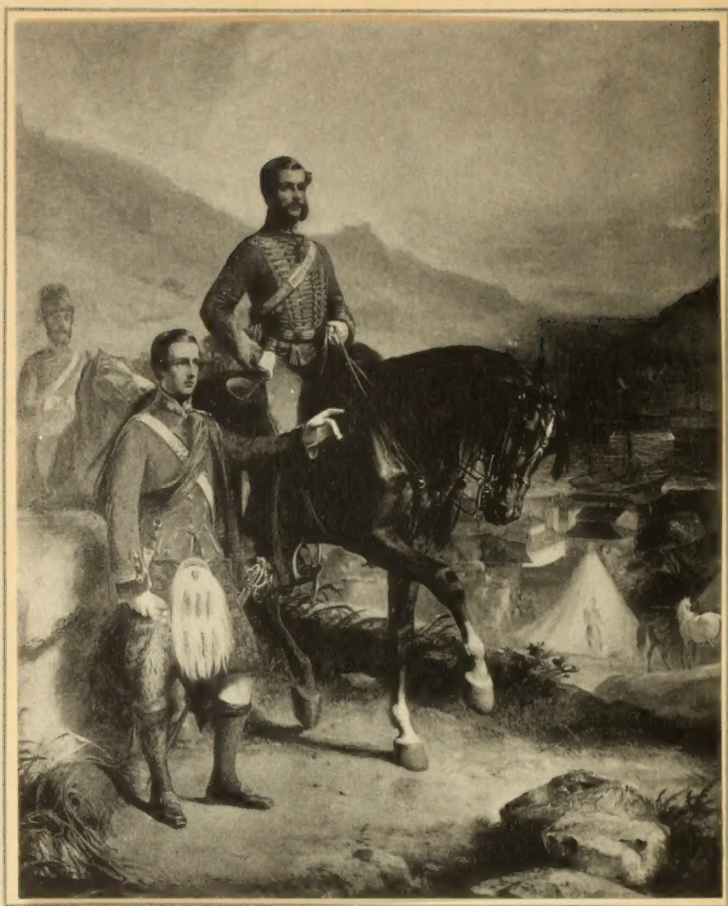


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THE RECORDS OF THE
COCKBURN FAMILY



SIR EDWARD C. COCKBURN OF THAT ILK
EIGHTH BARONET, AND HIS BROTHER
GEORGE WILLIAM COCKBURN IN 1858
From the Painting by THOMAS J. BARRER





THE RECORDS OF THE
COCKBURN
FAMILY

BY SIR ROBERT COCKBURN
BART. & HARRY A. COCKBURN

T. N. FOULIS · LONDON & EDINBURGH · MCMXIII

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PREFACE

To the majority of the present generation of Cockburns this account of their forbears should prove interesting.

It is shown in these pages that for some six hundred years individual members of the family, of one branch or another, have been inseparably connected with the history of their country, and of the services they have rendered to it have left no mean record.

There was published in the autumn of 1888 a bulky volume, written by Mr. Thomas Cockburn Hood, purporting to give an authentic history of the family. This production was hurriedly put together, and it has been proved to contain many misstatements, regarding not only dates but even the identities of various members of the family. Some six years after its publication the attention of the late Sir Edward Cockburn was drawn to it, and, with a view to bringing out a corrected and authentic account he employed, almost up to the time of his death, at Christmas 1903, much of his time in endeavouring to unravel the distorted and falsified pedigrees of this singularly erroneous Family History. Owing to the health of Sir Edward giving way before he was able to see his work completed, it has devolved upon us to embody in this volume the result of his labours.

In conclusion, we must acknowledge with thanks the assistance rendered by the Rev. Walter Macleod, and the advice and help of the Rev. Henry Paton, without whose aid it is improbable that we should have been enabled to prove the descent of the Cockpen branch of the family from the Cockburns of Choicelée and Caldra.

To many friends and acquaintances our thanks are due for the permission they have given to copy and reproduce pictures in their possession: to Lady Anne Dick Lauder, who owns the portrait of Adam Cockburn, Lord Ormiston; to the Directors of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, who possess that of his son John Cockburn, 'the father' of Scot-

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tish agriculture; to the President and Council of the Royal Scottish Academy, who permitted the use of their portrait of Lord Cockburn; to Violet, Viscountess Melville, by whose kindness the portrait of Janet Rannie, Mrs. Cockburn of Cockpen, is included among the illustrations; to Mr. William Page, who owns the portraits of Robert Cockburn and his wife Mary Duff ('Byron's Mary'); to Mr. William Cockburn of Old Kilpatrick, who sent us a photograph, taken under exceptional difficulties, of the old Brass at Ormiston; and to Mr. J. H. Rutherford for his miniatures of Sir James Cockburn, first baronet of that Ilk, and of Sir William James Cockburn, fourth baronet.

Finally, we must express our best thanks to Mr. Francis Bickley for his great assistance in revising the whole of the history, and making it, in a literary sense, much more worthy of a place among other family histories which have already been published; and to Mr. George A. Morton for his valuable help in revising the proofs.

ROBERT COCKBURN.

HARRY A. COCKBURN.

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INTRODUCTION

THERE can be little doubt that the family of Cockburn, which eventually spread into so many branches, won three baronetcies, and enriched its country's annals with no mean list of distinguished men, had its origin at Cockburn in the parish of Duns in Berwickshire. Of that origin, however, no authentic records remain. Of the few isolated Cockburns who represent the family before the beginning of the fourteenth century, none can be pointed out as laird of those lands whose name he bore; and about 1306, just before Langton was acquired by marriage and Henderland was restored to its former owner, Cockburn was given to Sir James Douglas by King Robert I., to whom it had been forfeited for treason by one Sir Peter Luband. Afterwards it came to the Lindsays, and there were to be no Cockburns of that ilk until 1527. Still, it may be taken as almost certain that when William Cockburn acquired the Berwickshire property by the prosaic method of purchase, he was returning to the home of his ancestors.

It may, however, perhaps be mentioned—for the imaginative rather than the scientific value of the idea—that the late Sir Edward Cockburn used to suggest a more picturesque descent for his line. This was that the original Cockburns were hereditary priests or standard-bearers of Irmin, the war-god of the Saxons, who invaded the Lothians in the sixth century. The symbol of Irmin was a cock: hence both the name and the armorial bearings of the family dedicated to his service.* How far this is good history or good mythology let the experts decide; it must be admitted that it is somewhat dubious genealogy and heraldry. The cocks of the shield are, it is natural to suppose, nothing more than a punning allusion to the name. The family

* For this god, and the famous idol, the Irminsula, which stood at Eresburg on the Danube until carried off by Charlemagne, see Turner's *History of the Anglo-Saxons* (6th ed.), vol. i. p. 222.

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may, like many lowlanders, be of Saxon origin. On the other hand, Norman characteristics, dark hair and brown eyes, predominate in all its branches. These, however, may be an inheritance from the common ancestress of the race, Mariota Vipont, who was undoubtedly of Norman stock.

Be that as it may, Mariota's husband, Alexander Cockburn, who married that lady, the heiress of Langton, about 1330, must be regarded as the founder of the family. It is true that the Cockburns had Henderland in the time of Edward 1.— who took it away from them, though his son restored it — but the lairds of Henderland cannot be certainly connected, though undoubtedly near akin, with the house of Langton, from which all the more modern branches are derived.*

From the fourteenth century onwards the name becomes frequent in the records relating to Edinburgh, East Lothian, and Berwickshire. For instance, in the registers of baptisms in Edinburgh from 1598 to 1740 there are more than two hundred entries, exclusive of those where the mother alone was a Cockburn; in those of Duns from 1617 to 1724 nearly two hundred and thirty entries; in those of Haddington from 1620 to 1700 no less than three hundred and seventy-five.† Nor are other classes of records, wills, sasines, and so on, less prolific. It has been possible, therefore, to trace with a great degree of certainty the history of most branches of the family. On the other hand, the subjects of many of these entries can be assigned

* Certain Cockburns settled in the counties of Ayr and Fife are not treated in this volume, the object of which is to deal rather with the Border branches of the family.

† Many registers, moreover, have been lost by neglect or were destroyed in times of trouble. Thus at Haddington 'all ye minutes from March 1646 to September 1650 were destroyed by the Englishmen at their incoming.' Similar causes helped to keep the registers empty: thus at the Canongate 'there were no parties married within the said Chapel from 23rd August 1650 to 26th June 1651 by reason of ye English being in and about the Town.'

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no definite place among the descendants of Alexander and Mariota. Even to-day there are many families with pedigrees of four or five generations which cannot be fitted into the general scheme. Two or three centuries ago the numbers of such unattached Cockburns were infinitely greater. With some of them, indeed, there will scarcely be a strong desire to claim kin. There is no stigma attached to connection with the followers of honest trades, however humble; especially when it is remembered how swiftly younger sons, if inadequately provided for, used to descend the social scale. But a public executioner is something less than an ornament to a pedigree.*

Nevertheless, deeds of violence and violent endings were not unknown among Cockburns of the true blood. The story of the bold riever of Henderland and his traditional connection with the ballad of the 'Border Widow's Lament' will be told in its place. The Lords of the Council took cognisance of more than one brawling Cockburn, as when Cockburn of that Ilk and his brothers carried their feud with the Homes of Wedderburn into Duns Kirk; when the same young men came to blows with their neighbours the Davidsons over a game of football; or when the sons of Ormiston—the graceless children of a venerable judge—created a disturbance outside the Council House itself. A characteristic case—for the Scots, as many a sovereign found, made lawless subjects—relates to an unidentified Malcolm Cockburn. In January 1612 William Livingston, servitor to John, Lord Saltoun, complained to the Council that this Malcolm, 'armit with certain weapons,' came to his lordship's lodging in Edinburgh and

* An Alexander Cockburn exercised that function in Edinburgh towards the end of the seventeenth century. Moreover, in July 1682, he was himself hanged for the murder of one M'Kenzie, a beggar. It is rather curious that the next Edinburgh hangman but one, who exercised his office from 1684 to 1690, was called Ormiston. Neither of these gentlemen figure again in our pages.

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hid himself ' under the stair thereof at even, in wait for the complainer, and set upon him with drawn sword, gave him a stroke on the back and on the head, and would have slain him if he had not escaped by his better defence.' The defendant did not appear, and was denounced as a rebel. But if Cockburns had sometimes to be judged, they more often sat in judgment. For though they have followed many professions with honour, in none have they gained such distinction as in the law.

Of those who have achieved varying degrees of fame descriptions will be found on the appropriate pages. It will, however, be not unseemly to marshal the great men of the family in brief review. First must come that Alexander who married Mariota Vipont, for he founded the family. His sons confirmed its position : Alexander, second of Langton, was Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland; John attained to at least a social prominence, for he married a Lindsay in great state, and so acquired Ormiston. In the middle of the fifteenth century Patrick Cockburn of Newbigging was Governor of Dalkeith and Constable of Edinburgh Castle, while either he or his son was ambassador to the English. At Flodden the Cockburns proved their loyalty and knighthood. They paid a heavy toll on that fatal day. Newhall lost its laird, Langton both its laird and its heir. About this time Henderland, in his lonely tower, was striking terror into the hearts of Border wayfarers and preparing for himself a day of heavy reckoning.

When Hertford came into Scotland more than one Cockburn was active in his service. Most prominent among these was John of Ormiston, who lost his lands for his pains. Mr. Lang, like Regent Arran, considered him a traitor, but he was only one of many Lowland lairds who desired a Protestant marriage for their young queen. Such an opinion was natural in the friend of George Wishart.

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The next laird of Ormiston was a celebrated Lord Justice-Clerk, while his contemporary and neighbour, Sir Richard Cockburn of Clerkington, became Lord Privy Seal.

Baronetcies now began to be created, and Langton and Ryslaw were honoured with the new title, while Sir George Cockburn of Ormiston, whose initials with those of his wife are still to be seen over a door in the garden at Ormiston, was knighted at Charles I.'s Scots coronation. His son, one of the Committee of Estates, was captured at Alyth by General Monk when Cromwell came to Scotland in 1651, and made acquaintance with the Tower of London.

Less exciting days follow. The Crowns are united, and corn grows on the blood-stained fields of the Border. The Cockburns continue to serve their country in the ways of peace and, when called, in foreign war. A clergyman, it is true, remains staunch to the Stewarts, is imprisoned at the Revolution, and must for a time seek his livelihood abroad ; but he dies in his bed in 1729, twenty years vicar of Northolt in Middlesex. Meanwhile another Ormiston is Lord Justice-Clerk, Cockburn of that Ilk wins his name a third baronetcy, and Dr. William Cockburn, the friend and physician of Swift—'a very rich old quack' Mrs. Delany calls him—is buried in Westminster Abbey.

An interesting figure in the early eighteenth century was John Cockburn, the last laird of Ormiston, who has been called the 'Father of Scottish Agriculture.' He did much to improve the estate which he was bound to sell, and his letters to his gardener are still worthy of perusal. About this time the estates began to go. Ormiston went in 1747, and Langton, which had already changed hands amongst Cockburns, was lost altogether ten years later. John Cockburn of Ormiston and Sir James Cockburn of Langton, who had to make these sad transactions, were both members of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

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A contemporary of the last was Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen, sheriff-depute of Midlothian in his twenty-eighth year, afterwards Judge of the Admiralty Court of Scotland, and eventually Baron of the Exchequer. Sir James of Langton was the father of some distinguished sons: Sir James Cockburn, major-general, under-secretary of state in 1806, and afterwards a colonial governor; Admiral Sir George Cockburn, a Lord of the Admiralty from 1818 to 1830; the Rev. Sir William Cockburn, Dean of York; Alexander Cockburn, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Colombia; and General Sir Francis Cockburn, Governor of Honduras. About the same time lived two other gallant soldiers: Major-General Sir William Cockburn, baronet, of Cockburn, who died in 1835, and Major-General James Pattison Cockburn, a great-grandson of the Rev. John Cockburn, vicar of Northolt, who was an artist as well as a soldier, and published several works on Swiss and Italian scenery.

It was reserved for the nineteenth century to witness the careers of two of the most famous men who ever bore the name of Cockburn. One adorned the Scottish, the other the English bench. Henry, Lord Cockburn, who died in 1854, was a prominent figure in the brilliant Edinburgh society of a hundred years ago. He was as notable for his legal, social, and political writings as for his ability in his profession. Sir Alexander Cockburn, the last of the main male line of Langton, is, as Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, of even greater celebrity. A skilful lawyer and brilliant orator, he was also a good conversationalist, and, according to those who knew him, a most fascinating companion.

All these Cockburns, from the first Alexander of Langton to the last, are historical characters. A word must now be said of a personage as celebrated as any of them, who on investigation proves to be, if not fictitious, at any

INTRODUCTION

rate utterly unconnected with the Cockburns. This is none other than the Laird o' Cockpen of Lady Nairne's famous song, who has been supposed to have been either a Cockburn or a Ramsay. Facts, however, make this appear, to say the least, unlikely.

Lady Nairne's principal biographer, Dr. Rogers, states that the song was written 'in her early youth.' As she was born in 1766, it may be presumed that that period had terminated by 1796. During these thirty years Cockpen had changed hands twice, once by sale and once by death. In 1768 Archibald Cockburn, Sheriff of Midlothian and Baron of Exchequer, married Janet Rannie, who certainly could not be called 'a penniless lass wi' a lang pedigree,' nor could it be said that 'nae chickens appeared,' as he had eight children born before he sold the property in 1785 to the eighth Earl of Dalhousie. Neither does the description apply to this Lord Dalhousie, who (when Lady Nairne was one year old) married Elizabeth Glen, who bore him seven sons and four daughters. His eldest son, who succeeded as ninth Earl of Dalhousie in 1787, was not married until 1805, by which time Lady Nairne's 'early youth' had surely come to an end.

Lady Nairne, therefore, if she were writing history, must have been referring to affairs that happened before her own time. In examining the Session Records of the parish of Cockpen, kindly lent by Mr. William Stewart of the Old Manse, Cockpen, we find that during the earliest years of the eighteenth century, Mark Carss, the then laird, was being constantly rebuked for his 'scandallous converse' with more than one of the female servants of Cockpen. It would be impossible to print here *in extenso* the extracts referring to these rebukes. Now Cromek in his *Select Songs of Scotland* and Whitelaw and others in their song-books published ballads entitled 'Cockpen,' which, in parts at

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least, are likewise unprintable. These, of course, differ almost entirely from Lady Nairne's. But her biographers state that she 'rewrote and improved' the song, as it 'was somewhat uncouth in expression,' a very indulgent criticism of the ballads preserved in the song-books. The conclusion to be drawn is clear. The original song (the different versions are merely variants) was a contemporary satire on the illicit love affairs of Mark Carss; Lady Nairne, knowing this production, wrote another bearing a similar title, introduced into it the laird, 'Lady Jean,' and one or two expressions from the original, but so changed the incidents that the story in her song became to all intents and purposes imaginary.

It is an easy transition from these literary matters—even though they prove to be no concern of the Cockburns after all—to the literature which the Cockburns themselves have produced. A complete bibliography would serve no better end than to weary the reader, but a brief reference to some of the more notable books bearing the name of Cockburn on the title-page may be found interesting. First among the authors of the family must be placed Henry, Lord Cockburn, whose *Memorials* should, according to Lord Rosebery, be read twice a year by every Scotsman. This entertaining work* deals with the earlier years of the judge's life, being brought down to the year 1830 when he was made Solicitor-General of Scotland. His two subsequent volumes, the *Journals*, published in 1874, are comparatively tedious, being concerned rather with politics than with social matters. Lord Cockburn also wrote the life of his intimate friend Lord Jeffrey, who predeceased him by four years. His *Circuit Journeys*, published in 1887, are interesting from a topographical point of view. General Sir

* In 1909 a new edition was brought out, with reproductions in colour of Raeburn portraits; this is preferable to the old and imperfect edition.

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George Cockburn produced several volumes, some of which were illustrated in colours, dealing with his travels in Sicily, Spain, and Gibraltar. The drawings and descriptions of Swiss and Italian scenery by Major-General James Pattison Cockburn have already been mentioned. In the eighteenth century two ladies of literary distinction married into the family: Catherine Trotter, the voluminous author of works 'theological, moral, dramatic and poetic,' and Alison Rutherford, author of 'Flowers of the Forest,' whose autobiography, published for the first time a few years ago, is a frank and interesting record. The Rev. John Cockburn, the erstwhile Jacobite vicar of Northolt, had many sermons and theological tracts put into print, and was responsible for a volume with the imposing title of *A Specimen of some Free and Impartial Remarks on Public Affairs and Particular Persons especially relating to Scotland*. But long-winded titles were the vogue when this was written. The vicar's contemporary, Dr. William Cockburn (of Abbey burial), published in 1697 'at the Grasshopper in the Poultry' *An Account of the Nature, Causes, Symptoms, and Cure of the Distempers that are incident to Seafaring People*. This book had a sequel which is remarkable for the terms of its dedication to John, Lord Berkeley of Stratton, Admiral and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Fleet. 'My Lord,' begins Dr. Cockburn, 'Occasions of addressing those of your Lordship's Worth and Quality have as often been abused by the indiscreet Panegyrics and fulsom flattery of cringing Parasites as they have been eagerly caught at . . . yet if I had as strong inclinations to flatter as my subject is tempting, your Lordship's known and declared aversion to all such practices and flaunting customs, a true stamp of engrained nobility, that never wanted these false satyrical lights of silly flatterers, this true Greatness of your Lordship's would justly check all such unreasonable and

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impudent designs,' and so on for another page or two. The 'cringing parasites' would have to be very 'fulsome' indeed to match the doctor even with their own weapons.

ARMORIAL BEARINGS

ARMORIAL Bearings originated in different badges, marks, or crests by which a tribe or family might be distinguished in time of war, and in another chapter a suggestion, considerably open to question, has been offered to account for the Cock being the principal emblem by which all branches of the Cockburn family have been heraldically known.

The earliest examples of Cockburn arms or crest extant are recorded in ancient seals, the first being of 1296, since which date numerous different specimens are found, attached to various deeds, etc.

The first list of Scottish Armorial Bearings is that compiled about 1540, while Sir David Lindsay of the Mount was Lord Lyon,* and there are still preserved catalogues formed in later days by Workman, Sir James Balfour, Pont, and Sir Patrick Home.

To prevent the illegal assumption of arms an Act of Parliament was passed in 1672 commanding all persons who used Armorial Bearings to send an account of the same, within a year, with authenticated certificates of the use of the said arms, as well as of their descent, that they might be properly registered in the Books of Lord Lyon. Eighty years before a somewhat similar Act was passed, but was presumably not strictly enforced.

However, for over two hundred and thirty years all Scottish Armorial Bearings assumed legally have been entered in the Books of the Lyon Office, and the following are the extracts of the Cockburn Arms:—

SIR ARCHIBALD COCKBURN of LANGTON

The Right Worshipfull Sir Archibald Cockburn of Langtonne, knight-baronet, bears two coats quarterly first argent three cocks gules as his paternal coat by the name of Cockburne, second gules six masles or, three two and one, by the name of Weapont, third as the second, the fourth

* The head of the Scottish 'College of Heralds.'

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as the first, with the badge of Nova Scotia as being baronet; on a helmet befitting his degree a mantle gules doubled argent is set for his crest a cock crowing proper supported by two lions gules that on the dexter gardant. The motto is, *Accendit Cantu.* 1673.

ADAM COCKBURN of ORMISTON

Adam Cockburn of Ormiston bears argent a fess chequé azure and of the first betwixt three cocks gules; above the shield a helmet befitting his degree mantled gules doubled argent, next is placed on a torse for his crest a cock of the first; the motto in ane escroll, *In dubiis Constans.* c. 1673.

Sir JAMES COCKBURN of RYSLAW

The Right Worshipful Sir James Cockburn of Ryslaw bears argent a man's heart proper betwixt three cocks gules; helmet and mantling as usual, the crest and motto not condescended on. c. 1673.

RICHARD COCKBURN of CLERKINGTON

Richard Cockburn of Clerkington, descended of the family of Langtoun, bears . . . (The rest is left blank.) c. 1673.

GEORGE COCKBURN, third son of the deceased

Sir GEORGE COCKBURN of ORMISTON

George Cockburn, third son of the deceased Sir George Cockburn of Ormiston, bears argent a fess checkie azure and of the first betwixt three cocks gules a mollet for a difference; above the shield a helmet befitting his degree mantled gules doubled argent, next is placed on a torse for his crest a cock of the first and for his motto in ane escroll, *In dubiis constans.* c. 1673.

Lieutenant WILLIAM COCKBURN of STENNIFLETT

Lieutenant William Cockburn of Stenniflett, now presenter of the family of Skirling, bears argent a spear

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head betwixt three cocks gules, above the shield a helmet befitting his degree mantled gules doubled argent, next is placed on a torse for his crest a dexter arm holding a broken lance in bend proper: the motto in ane escroll, Press through.

c. 1673.

JAMES COCKBURN, Merchant in EDINBURGH

James Cockburn, merchant in Edinburgh, bears argent a rose gules stalked and barbed vert betwixt three cocks of the second; above the shield a helmet befitting his degree mantled gules doubled argent, next is placed on a torse for his crest a cock's head proper. The motto is, I rise with the morning.

1674.

THOMAS COCKBURN of ROWCHESTER, W.S.

Thomas Cockburn of Row Chester, Esq. W.S., his Majesty's own Writer for Scotland, and the Isles thereof and Deputy Keeper of the great Seal of Scotland, descended from the family of Cockburn of Langtoun the chief of that ancient sirname by that branch thereof sometime designed of Selburnrigg, bears quarterly first and fourth argent a pen in pale surmounted of an imperial crown both proper for the office of King's Writer, between two cocks in chief gules, his paternal figures, and a lion's head erased in base of the last langued azure on account of his marriage with Agnes Scott, daughter of John Scott, Esq. grand-son of Sir John Scott of Ancrum, Baronet, second and third gules six mascles three two and one, or, for Weapont; crest, a cock proper; motto, Vigilans et Audax. Matriculated 13th August

1779.

THOMAS COCKBURN STOTHERT of BLAIKET

Thomas Cockburn Stothert of Blaiket, in the stewartry of Kirkcubright, Esq. Advocate, second son of the late James Stothert of Cargen, Esq. by Margaret, daughter of the late Thomas Cockburn of Rochester, Esq. W.S., which

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James Stothert by his Settlement dated 30th January 1800, and registered in the Books of Session 20th March thereafter, directed his trustees to convey his lands and estate of Blaiket to his second son the said Thomas Stothert 'with and under this special injunction and recommendation that the said Thomas Stothert shall immediately after my death assume and constantly bear and retain the name of Thomas Cockburn Stothert as his proper name and surname in time coming.' Bears quarterly first and fourth argent three stars sable for Stothert, second and third grand quarters quarterly first and fourth argent three cocks gules, second and third gules six mascles, three, two and one, or, for Cockburn. Crest, a star argent issuing out of a cloud proper. Motto, Post Nubes Lux. Matriculated 26th July 1814.

JOHN COCKBURN-HOOD of STONERIDGE

John Cockburn-Hood (formerly John Hood) of Stoneridge in the County of Berwick, Esq. having by a Petition to the Lord Lyon King of Arms represented that he obtained from the late Thomas Robert, Earl of Kinnoull, Lord Lyon King of Arms, a patent of arms dated 30th November 1830; that in consideration of his maternal descent from Thomas Cockburn of Rowchester whose arms are recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, 13th August 1779, he has assumed the name of Cockburn in addition to and before that of Hood; that he is desirous of having his assumption of the said surname recognised in the Records of the Lyon Court; and that he is desirous of having the sanction of the Lord Lyon King of Arms to bear and use the said arms of Cockburn in a canton or otherwise with the motto 'Swift and sure' over his crest as additions to the bearings granted to him in 1830; and the said petitioner having prayed that his arms might be matriculated of new with these additions

ARMORIAL BEARINGS

in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland; the interim, Lord Lyon by Interlocutor dated the 28th day of March last granted warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate of new in the said Public Register in the name of the said Petitioner John Cockburn-Hood of Stoneridge in the County of Berwick, Esq. the following ensigns armorial, viz., quarterly sable and argent a bend or, on a chief of the second a lion's head erased gules langued azure between two cocks of the fourth. Above the shield is placed a helmet befitting his degree with a mantling gules doubled argent, and on a wreath of his liveries is set for crest a demi-archer clothed and accoutred proper, and in ane escrol over the same this motto 'Swift and sure,' and in ane escrol below the shield this motto 'Olim sic erat.' Matriculated the 6th day of April 1866.

The following are taken from the Old Heraldic Manuscripts in the Lyon Office, compiled principally before the Act of 1672. It will be seen that in some cases these differ, there being, for instance, three or four variations of Cockburns of Ormiston, but these alterations would be accounted for by the different lairds in old times choosing different Bearings:—

COCKBURN ARMORIAL BEARINGS

contained in Old Heraldic MSS.
in the Lyon Office, etc.

(1566) I. OLD MS. OF BLAZONS—SAME AS FORMAN'S—WORKMAN'S MS.

Cockburn of Ormiston.

Argent a fess chequy Azure and of the first
between three cocks gules.

Cockburn of Newhall.

Argent a masle azure betwixt three cocks gules.

Cockburn of Ormiston of old.

Three cocks within a bordure gules

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Cockburn of Clerkingtoun.

Argent three cocks gules and a crescent in the centre sable.

Cockburn of Skirling.

The same, but instead of the crescent, a buckle.

Cockburn of Clerkington.

Argent a crescent azure betwixt three cocks gules, supported on the dexter by a falcon and on the sinister a lyon, guardant and collored, gules, Crest a lion's head erased and crowned.

Cockburn of Langton.

Argent three cocks gules, supporter a lyon,
Motto, Per adventur.

(c. 1630) II. SIR JAMES BALFOUR'S MSS.

Cockburn of Clerkington.

Argent three cocks geulles.

Cockburn of Ormystone.

Argent within a plaine bordure three cocks geulles.

Cockburn of Newhall.

Argent three mascles azure voyded of the field between three cocks geulles.

Cockburn of Henderland.

Argent a mollet azure between three cocks geulles.

Cockburn of Skirling.

Argent a buckle-tongued azure between three cocks gules.

Cockburn of Trattone—bears

Quarterly (1) Argent three cocks geulles by the name of Cockburn. (2ndly.) Azure. A trois busseaux d'eau. 3 as the 1, 4 as the 2.

Cockburn of Langton.

Or three cocks proper.

Cockburn of Langtoun—give now,

Quarterly 1, Argent three cocks gules. 2ndly.

ARMORIAL BEARINGS

Azure six maschells 3, 2, 1, or by the name of 3 as the 2, 4 as the 1.

Cockburn of Langtoun.

Azure three cocks gules.

Cockburn.

Argent a fess chequy azure and of the field, between three cocks gules.

(c.1629) III. PONT'S MANUSCRIPT.

Cockburn of Durham.

Or a manche azure.

Cockburn of Ormiston.

Argent three cocks gules within a bordure chequy azure; *Aliter* Argent a fess chequy of the first and azure between three cocks gules.

Cockburn of Traitton. Two coats quarterly.

First and last. Argent three cocks gules for his paternal coat; 2 and 3, Three water budgets or by the name of Vallenge.

(13 Feb. 1723) IV. SIR PATRICK HOME'S MANUSCRIPT.

Cockburn of Langton.

1 and 4 Argent three cocks gules, 2 and 3 Azure three mascles or.

Cockburn of that Ilk of old.

Argent a cock gules.

Cockburn of Henderland of old.

Argent two cocks gules.

Cockburn of Choislie.

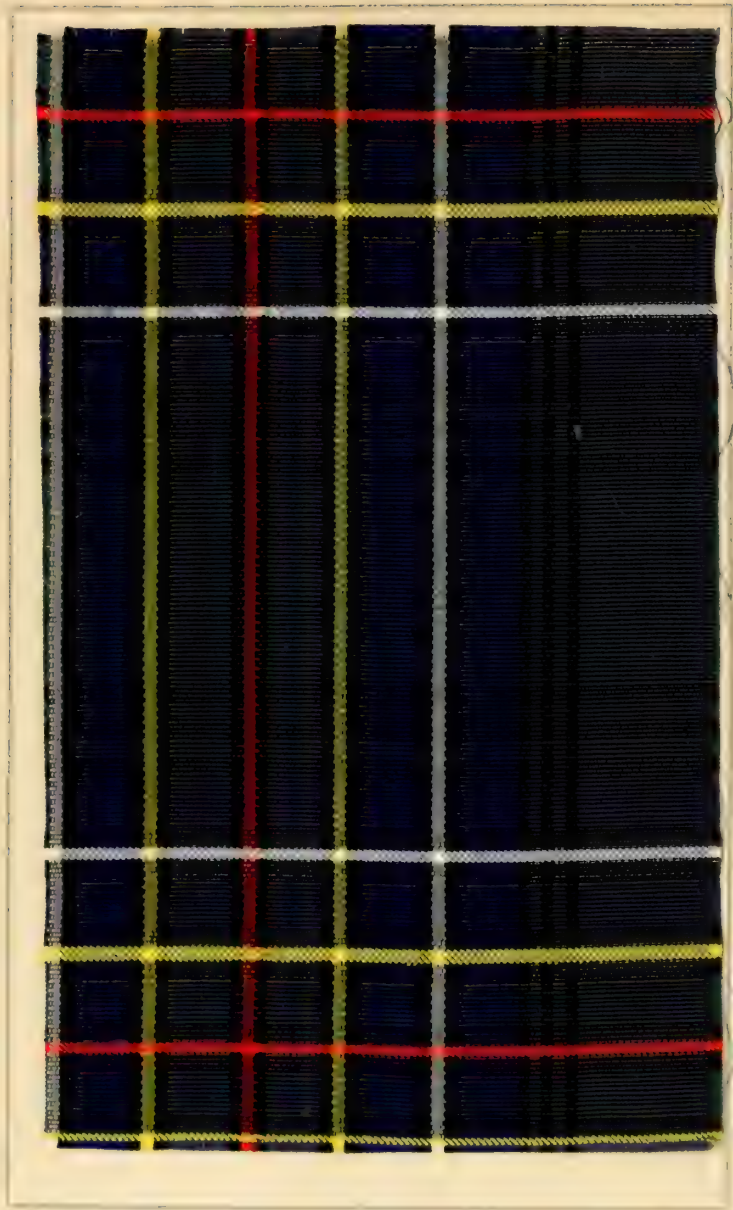
1 and 4 Argent three Cocks gules within a bordure; 2 and 3 azure three Mascles or.

For the benefit of those who are not aware of the facts, it may here be stated that Armorial Bearings are granted by the Lord Lyon under two headings: either by a fresh 'grant,' or where the petitioner is a descendant or cadet of a family whose arms are already on record, by Matricula-

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

tion. For example, if a Cockburn, who is unable to prove his descent from any well-known branch of the family, makes an application for a coat-armorial, he would probably be given as arms a shield bearing the three cocks gules (red) on a silver shield; but if he can prove, step by step, his descent from an ancestor whose arms are already recorded, he would be granted the same arms, with suitable differences, in the event of his being descended from a junior branch, or being himself a younger son.

It may also be mentioned that legally the penalties for using Armorial Bearings unlawfully—*i.e.* by their not being granted afresh—are heavy: the confiscation of all goods on which the arms are engraved, painted, or represented, and the payment to the Lord Lyon of a fine of £100 sterling.



PLAID FABRIC

THE COCKBURN TARTAN

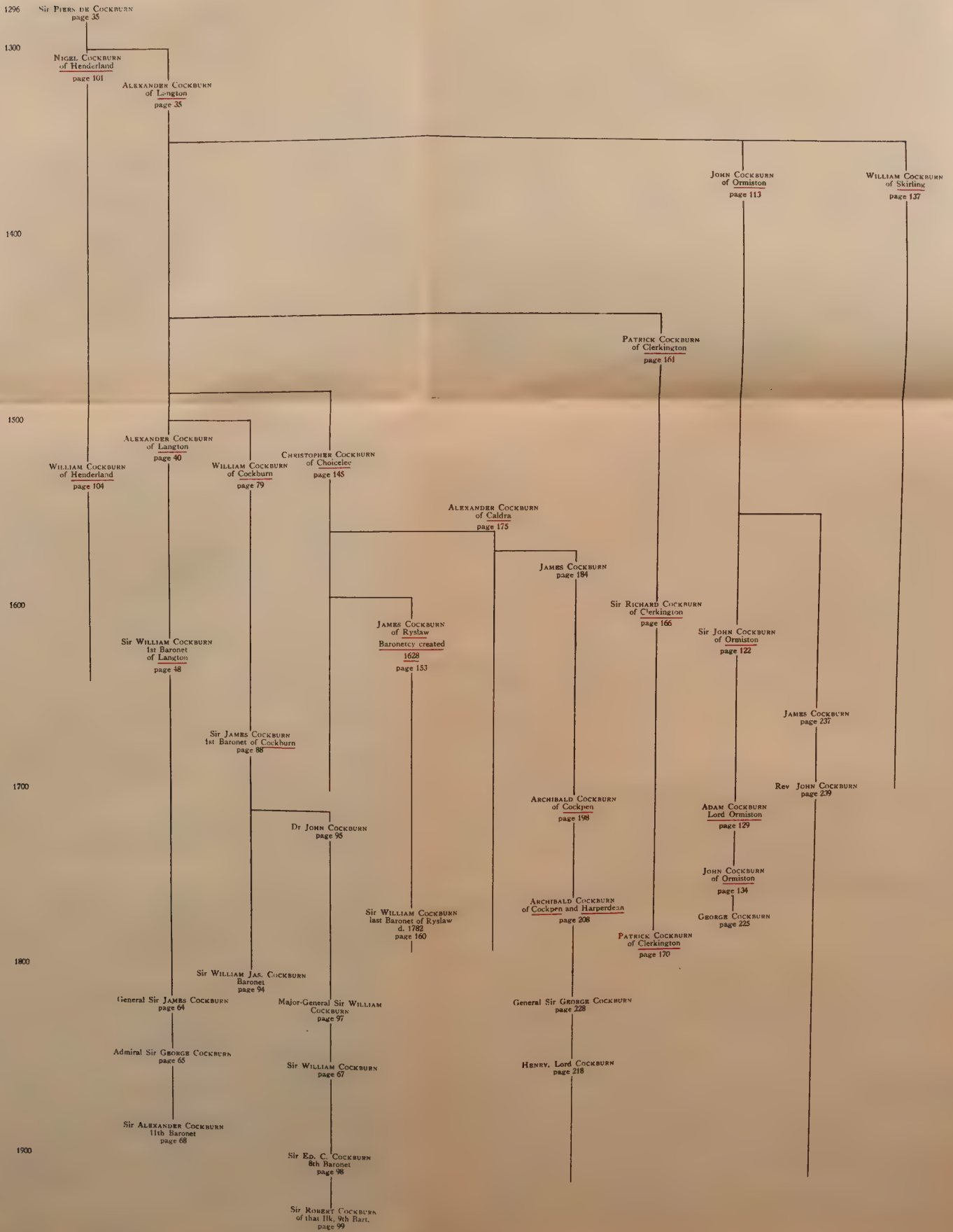
DEALING, as this volume does, with an essentially Border and Lowland family, it will probably be news to many to know that we can boast possession of a Tartan, an ownership which is usually associated with Highland clans, but there is undoubted evidence that several of the old Lowland families can lay claim to a Tartan, and among them the Cockburns.

The whole status of Tartans, from a historical point of view, is, however, rather unsatisfactory, for there never seems to have been any registration such as has been accorded to Armorial Bearings recorded at regular dates in the Lyon Office, so that there are no means of verifying their age or usage.

Three old collections of Tartans, however, are extant: one belonging to the Highland Society of London, another to the Mackintosh at Moy Hall, and a third to Sir Robert Cockburn, whose great-grandfather, Major-General Sir William, formed the collection nearly a hundred years since. At Moy Hall there are specimens of at least four Tartans belonging to Lowland families—viz. Douglas, Dundas, Hay, and Cockburn.



A map of the Langston area in Virginia, showing various parishes and geographical features.



THE COCKBURN PROPERTIES

THE lands which once, for many years or few, owned the lordship of the Cockburns all lie to the south and south-east of Edinburgh, between the capital and the Border. Cockburn itself, Langton, Choicelee, Caldra, Blacksmiln, and Ryslaw form a group round Duns in Berwickshire; Ormiston, Clerkington, Newhall, Bolton, Monkrig, and Harperdean are in East Lothian; Vogrie, Temple, and Cockpen in Midlothian; and Henderland, Glen, and Skirling in Peeblesshire.

To *Cockburn*, as the cradle of the house, though it was not held longest nor, as far as records go, earliest acquired, pride of place must be given. About three miles north of Duns the Millburn joins the Whitadder, itself a tributary of the Tweed. Bounded on the east by the tortuous course of the Whitadder, Cockburn Law rises to a height of 1060 feet above the sea. On its slopes stand three farm-houses: Cockburn, Cockburn East, and Cockburn Mill. Thus even the everlasting hills move with the times. Here are the dwellings of farmers and all the signs of peaceful agriculture, where once an embattled fortalice frowned defiance towards the Border and menace to neighbouring lairds. Nothing is left of old Cockburn Castle, though a Mr. Johnston, who was born at Cockburn East and lived at Fellcleugh till his death (which took place recently), remembered the ruins and their removal about 1827 for the building of the present farm-house. Its site is said to have been on a high bank overlooking the Whitadder a few hundred yards north-east of the farm. The place was well chosen. The watcher on the tower would have the dangerous south spread as a map beneath him, and would be quick to catch from neighbouring Langton the first glint of the fires whereby Cockburn warned Cockburn that the English were over the Border. Here, too, the beacon would

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

be kindled, where now only the gold of the whins is ablaze in the sunshine.

About the year 1820 General Sir William Cockburn, sixth baronet of that ilk, an excellent artist, painted Cockburn Castle, as it then was, from the banks of the Whitadder below. He enhanced the beauty of the scenery, however, to such an extent (some artists seem bent on 'improving' nature) that it has been thought advisable to sketch afresh the scene of to-day, and to insert his view of the ruined tower on the spot where, a grey, grim sentinel, it stood and weathered so many storms.

The original Cockburns of Cockburn, and the tale of their first exodus, are lost in the unrecorded past. In 1425* Sir David Dunbar, sixth son of George, Earl of Dunbar and March, was lord of the place, and his daughter Margaret brought it to her husband Alexander Lindsay, fourth Earl of Crawford. Thence it descended to the eighth earl, who about 1527 sold it to William Cockburn,† second son of that laird of Langton who fell on Flodden field. From that time onwards there were Cockburns of Cockburn for nearly two hundred years.

Financial troubles, however, overtook the family in later days, and in the *Edinburgh Courant* for 6th June 1707 appeared the following advertisement:—

'The Lands and Barony of Cockburn lying in the Parish of Duns and Sheriffdom of Berwick are to be exposed to a voluntary roup upon 26th inst. in the house of Mistress Montgomery, Vintner in the Writer's Court,' etc., etc.

Whether the estate was sold then or shortly afterwards, by August 1710 it had come into the possession of Sir Robert Sinclair of Stevenson. Sir Robert's wife was Lady Helen Lindsay, daughter of the Earl of Crawford, so that

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 32.

† *Ibid.*, vol. iii. No. 447.



COCKBURN CASTLE

THE COCKBURN PROPERTIES

in purchasing Cockburn he became possessed of a property which two hundred years previously had belonged to his wife's family. Their daughter Margaret married Robert Dundas of Arniston, and was mother of Martha Dundas, who became the wife of Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen. The estate has since been in various hands, and is now owned by Mr. G. G. Turnbull of Abbey St. Bathans.

Besides Cockburn near Duns there is a Cockburn near Balerno in Midlothian. It is practically certain, however, that the family had no connection with this latter place, which, indeed, is called Coleburn or Colburn in old maps, from Bleau's of 1650 until a hundred years later, and Coburn in a saisine of 1700. It is not until 1750 that it appears as Cockburn, which is very probably a corruption due to the renown of the men who were so surnamed. A similar case is that of Cockburnspath. This place was originally called Colbrandspath in honour of a certain mythical giant Colbrand. There is a theory that the name was specifically and deliberately changed after John Cockburn of Ormiston had conducted Somerset on his way from Berwick towards Edinburgh in 1547. Dates seem to support this view, but historians of the evolutionary school would perhaps maintain that, as the fame of the Cockburns grew and that of the giant waned, the change was more gradually effected.

Langton lies four miles south-west of Cockburn as the crow flies, and a mile west of Duns. It was this property which Alexander, forbear of nearly all the Cockburns whose lives are chronicled in these pages, won with the hand of Mariota Vipont. This fateful marriage took place about 1330, and for more than four centuries the family was at home at Langton. The descent, however, was not unbroken; for about 1690 Sir Archibald Cockburn, fourth baronet of Langton, found himself in financial difficulties, and was

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

forced to meet his creditors. Among these was Sir James Cockburn, first baronet of that ilk, who had stood his kinsman's security in large sums of money, and to whom Langton now passed. The estate was thus, for the time being, saved to the name of Cockburn. But in 1757 another Sir James, grandson of the first baronet, sold it to Mr. David Gavin, and Langton passed from the possession of the family, which had held it longer than any other of their properties.

It is the gyrons and ships of Campbell of Breadalbane, and not the cocks of Cockburn, which adorn the fine iron gates now leading to Langton House. For Mr. Gavin's daughter and heiress became the wife of the fourth Earl of Breadalbane, whose granddaughter, Lady Harvey, is the present owner. Nor is the house itself that which the Cockburns knew; the place was rebuilt some fifty years ago. Moreover, although Langton House stands where stood the comfortable dwelling of the periwigged Cockburns of the eighteenth century, one must seek further for the home of their fighting forbears. On a hill, now finely wooded, which rises behind the house, a curved ridge of stone juts through the turf. This may or may not be the remnant of Langton Tower, but it certainly marks the approximate site of the old peel where the Cockburns of Langton had their earlier and less spacious abode.

Another interesting relic is the little walled burial ground where, clustered round the ruined church, lie the tombs of old Cockburns, draped in moss and half hidden under grass and nettles. From dates on some of the stones it appears that the place was in use until well on in the last century, but to-day it is desolate indeed.

In fact, the whole aspect of Langton must be very different from what it once was. The village—which James IV. created a burgh and barony, with a cross, a weekly market,







THE COCKBURN PROPERTIES

and two fairs in the year—used to straggle right up to the house. Mr. Gavin, with the new man's busy pride of possession, changed all this. Pulling down the old houses, he planted the stately avenue of trees which now shades the drive, giving the inhabitants, in recompense, a new site half a mile from his demesne. The village which sprang up there is called not Langton but Gavinton.

Choicelee lies close to Langton, a little to the south-west, and for some two hundred years a line of Cockburns of Choicelee (or Chouseley as it was sometimes written) was an important branch of the family. As mentioned elsewhere, the first of this house was Christopher Cockburn, who acquired the estate about 1504.

Nowadays there is merely a modern farm-house, probably occupying the site of the ancient residence, which was in old documents designated a fortalice, and must therefore have been a place of some importance.

About three miles south of Duns, *Caldra* House stands on a steep wooded bank overlooking the River Blackadder, in the parish of Fogo.

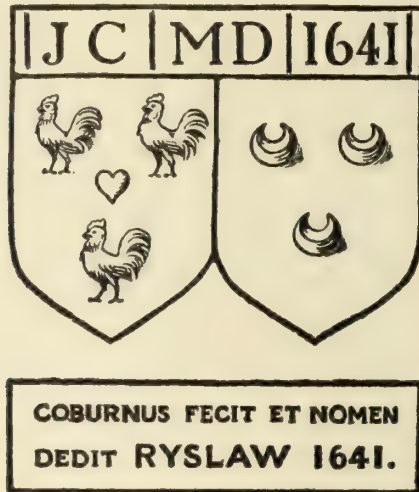
The first Cockburn of Caldra was Alexander, second son of Christopher Cockburn of Choicelee. He acquired Caldra in November 1554, and his descendants continued there until 1745, when the estate passed to the Homes of Wedderburn, whose lineal descendant, Captain David Milne-Home, is now proprietor.

Another Caldra is situated near Longformacus, about four miles north-west of Duns, but this property had nothing whatever to do with the Cockburns.

Also in the parish of Fogo, but four miles south of Duns, stands *Ryslaw*, now a modern farm-house, but at one time a more important place. It was, however, only owned by

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

the Cockburns for some eighty-five years, coming in 1625 to James Cockburn, a son of Choicelee, through his marriage with Marie, daughter of Sir Andrew Edmonstone. Although the family has long since parted with the lands, a record of the tenancy is still extant in the bridge over the Blackadder near Fogo Kirk. This was built by Sir James Cockburn, the first Cockburn of Ryslaw. On the north-west side of the bridge are two inscriptions, one of them unfortunately crumbling away, the other in better condition. The nature of the decayed inscription, which is in the centre of the bridge, is shown in the accompanying illustration.



J. C. stands for James Cockburn, the builder's father; M. D. for Marion Douglas, his mother, and 1641 is the year in which the bridge was built. The Cockburn shield has a heart between the three cocks to mark the descent from the Douglas family, and the other shield bears the arms of the Edmonstones, the builder's wife's family. The other inscribed stone is in the following form:—

THE COCKBURN PROPERTIES

C of Ryslaw brother of Chous
lie did this brig 1641

The bridge has doubtless been repaired and widened on several occasions since 1641, notably in 1813, as a tablet on the south side states, but these carved stones remain an interesting relic of the past.

So much for the main Berwickshire properties.

Further west, in East Lothian, the most important Cockburn estate was *Ormiston*, which came to John, second son of Alexander Cockburn and Mariota Vipont of Langton, through his marriage in 1368 with Joneta Lindsay, heiress of Ormiston. Their descendants continued in uninterrupted succession there until 1747, when John Cockburn, who had been distinguished by his exertions to promote the improvement of the property and surrounding districts, sold it to the Earl of Hopetoun, whose great-great-grandson, the Marquis of Linlithgow, is now owner.

Ormiston Hall is a comparatively modern structure, having been built in the year of Prince Charlie's adventure and since enlarged. It is surrounded by well laid-out shrubberies and gardens encircled by fir-trees, many of which were no doubt planted by John Cockburn the agriculturist. There have, however, been alterations since his time. The practical laird had little use for such unprofitable trifles as flowers, and it was left for a later owner, Lady Hopetoun, to lay out the bright parterres which now make the garden beautiful.

The oldest part of the Hall, entered by a low, arched doorway, now constitutes one side of the stable buildings; and here George Wishart is said to have taken refuge in 1546, a few months before his execution.

The first object of interest in the garden is a yew-tree,

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

which must be of immense age. It is mentioned in a document dated 1474, and there is a tradition that Wishart preached beneath its branches. In 1824 the trunk at the base measured 12 feet 8 inches, and the surface of the ground covered by the extremities of its branches was 59 feet in diameter. In 1905 it measured 15½ feet at the base of the trunk, and the ground covered by the extremities of the branches was about 80 feet in diameter. It is still (1912) in a flourishing condition.

Over a doorway entering the garden is an old triangular carved stone.



The initials are those of Sir George Cockburn and Dame Margaret Touris, his wife, who died in that year, 1636.

Outside the far end of the garden are the remains of a pre-Reformation chapel, the roof of which has been removed within the last few years as endangering the structure. On one wall there is a memorial brass, which, considering its age and surroundings, is in a marvellous state of preservation. The inscription is believed to be from the pen of George Buchanan, and extols the virtues of Alexander Cockburn, who died in 1563, aged twenty-eight. This young man was the eldest son of the then laird of Ormiston, and an ardent disciple of John Knox.*

This Ormiston must not be confused with either of the two other places so-called. Of these the most important,

* For further details as to Ormiston, see the admirable introduction to the *Letters of John Cockburn of Ormistoun to his Gardener*, edited by James Colville for the *Scottish History Society*, 1904.

THE COCKBURN PROPERTIES

historically, is Ormiston near Roxburgh, belonging to a family of the same name, two members of which were notorious for the part they played in the murder of Darnley. The other Ormiston is situated near Midcalder in Midlothian.

Clerkington, which lies on the outskirts of Haddington, about seven miles from Ormiston, remained in the Cockburn family in an unbroken line from 1541 for some two hundred and thirty years. The estate is bounded on the east by the River Tyne; and the old mansion of the Cockburns must have stood nearer to the river than the present comparatively modern house, for in October 1775 the house and a 'Chinese Bridge' were swept away by a most disastrous flood, which inundated the country for many miles. One authority states that the River Tyne rose seventeen feet above its ordinary level.*

We get an idea of the topography of the estate as it was in October 1745 from the instructions given to George Gordon of Beldorney † while searching East Lothian for arms and horses for Prince Charles Edward. 'Then you go to Clerkington: take a guide along with you and go first to Blackhouse which is the Mains; leave a guide here and go down to the house. Mr. Cockburn has a good gelding and a gray Galloway, with good furniture—and if he has any good horses take them as he is a declared enemy. The stables are betwixt Blackhouse and the house of Clerkington, opposite the pigeon-house upon your right as you go down to the house.'

There is nothing of a historically interesting nature to be seen here now, all traces of Cockburn ownership having long since vanished.

There was at one time another Clerkington, which, however, is now called Rosebery. The changes of name which

* *Old Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. vi. p. 540.

† *Grange of St. Giles*, pp. 78, 79.

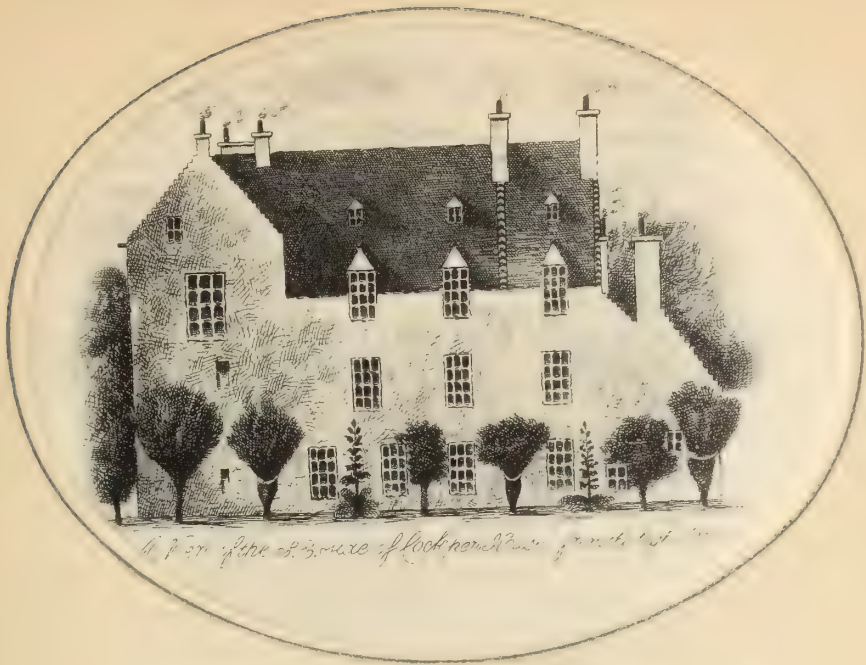
THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

this place has undergone are curious. Anciently called Clerkington or Clarkington, it was towards the end of the seventeenth century in possession of Sir John Nicholson, and called Nicholson. In 1695 it was sold to a Primrose (of the Dalmeny family), and became Rosebery. In 1712 the estate was bought by the Marquis of Lothian, who renamed it New Ancrum. By 1757 it had come into the possession of Mr. Robert Hepburn, who restored the original name of Clarkington. In 1821, however, it was purchased by the fourth Earl of Rosebery, who again gave it the name by which it had been known when his ancestors possessed it, and Rosebery it remains to the present day.

Monkrig is a small estate about a mile south of Haddington, which for a short time in the first half of the seventeenth century belonged to a branch of the Clerkington Cockburns.

The small property of *Harperdean*, situated on the sloping hills to the north of Haddington, has been in the possession of Cockburns at least three times. There was a family there, difficult to identify, in 1527; another at the beginning of the seventeenth century; and, as has been shown in the history of the Cockpen branch, the place was brought back to the family in 1696 by the marriage of a Butler of Harperdean with Archibald Cockburn, burgess of Edinburgh, whose son purchased Cockpen, but whose grandson was forced to sell both estates in 1785. The purchaser was Mr. Buchan Hepburn (created a baronet in 1815), whose great-grandson, Sir Archibald Hepburn, is now owner.

In Midlothian there are three properties which have been connected with the Cockburns, though none for any long period. The oldest were *Templehall* and *Vogrie*, situated in the parishes of Temple and Borthwick, about ten to



THE HOUSE OF LORDS, AS SEEN FROM THE GARDEN, 1840
DRAWN BY J. H. STUBBS, AND ENGRAVED BY J. H. STUBBS.

THE COCKBURN PROPERTIES

twelve miles south-east of Edinburgh. These were at first held by one laird.

The earliest proprietor was Samuel Cockburn, younger brother of Sir John Cockburn of Ormiston, Lord Justice-Clerk, who was born about 1540. He was succeeded at Templehall by his eldest son Francis, and at Vogrie by his second son William. Both families, however, seem to have died out, and about 1660 the Cockburns had no more to do with Vogrie, which some sixty years after came into possession of the Dewars, whose lineal descendant, Miss Dewar, daughter of the late Captain J. Cumming Dewar, now holds the property. It has been noticed in the history of the Cockpen branch of the family that his father's sister, Eliza Dewar, married John Cockburn of Doune Terrace, Edinburgh.

About *Cockpen*, the third Midlothian property, there has been much misapprehension. For many years it has been believed that there were Cockburns of Cockpen for centuries, and that the 'laird' of ballad fame was of the Cockburn blood. But this is not so.

Originally in the possession of the Ramsays, about 1635 the place belonged to a family named Carss. The history of this family is uncertain, but since several successive lairds—some of them leading men in their day—bore the name of Mark, it is extremely probable that they were Kerrs of the family of the Earls of Lothian, among whom Mark is a distinctive baptismal name.

Be this as it may, Cockpen passed away from them, and was purchased in 1733 by Archibald Cockburn, whose son was obliged to sell it in 1785 to the Earl of Dalhousie, whose descendant is now in possession of the lands.

Practically all traces of the house of Cockpen have long since been swept away, the accompanying print being taken from a small picture on a plan of the estate made in 1767

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

for Archibald Cockburn, the 'Laird o' Cockpen' for the time being.

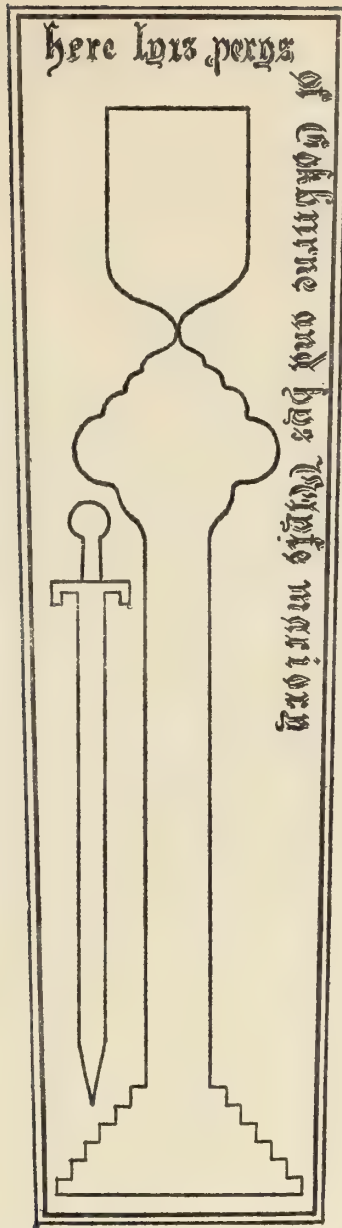
Of the properties in Peeblesshire the most noteworthy is *Henderland*, held from the beginning of the fourteenth century, and perhaps earlier,* until 1634. It is also the most remote and lonely of all the Cockburn lands. The house stood, it appears, just off the road, which follows the left bank of the storied Yarrow and of Megget Water, and a little to the north of St. Mary's Loch. To the north the hill slopes upwards to Deer Law and the heights beyond. Away to the south-west, across bleak moorland and moorland stream, is Tushie Law, the home of the 'King of the Borders,' Adam Scott, against whom and his neighbour and brother-in-lawlessness, William Cockburn of Henderland, the King wreaked his vengeance on that spring day of 1530. No stone now stands of Henderland's tower, over the door of which tradition, for all the industry of Pitcairn, will always see the freebooter hanging; only the burn flows, by whose waters the 'Border Widow' will for ever seek to lose the sound of her lord's agony. †

The sole trace that men once dwelt here is a gravestone on the top of a rounded knoll, which is usually supposed to be the site of a chapel, but might well have borne Henderland Tower itself. On this stone is the inscription, now sadly defaced, '*Here lvis Perys of Cokburne and hys wyfe Marjory.*' This Piers has inevitably been confounded with his descendant William, and has many a time been hung for the robber laird's transgressions. As a matter of fact, he lived a century earlier, and was, for all we know to the contrary, a law-abiding subject.

From this brief account of the principal estates belong-

* See the account of Cockburn of Henderland.

† For the demolition of the legend, see the account of the family. By Megget Water one prefers to believe the old story.



THE COCKBURN OF HENDERLAND TOMB IN 1841

THE COCKBURN PROPERTIES

ing at different times to various branches of the Cockburn family, it will be seen that they were scattered over a wide extent of the Lowlands; and considering how the various families were time after time connected by marriage (as shown in the pedigrees) and in various ways intimate with each other in business matters, trustee and executorship, or in being witnesses to baptisms, etc., one cannot help being struck by the apparent facility with which they covered the ground which separated them from their kinsmen. In these days, for instance, the neighbourhood of Duns seems far away from Peeblesshire and, say, Ormiston and East Lothian. Roads were few, and in most cases mere hilly tracks. But maybe our ancestors thought very much less of the discomforts of travelling by road through the Lowlands than we do now. Horses and ponies were, of course, extensively used as a means of getting about; and one obtains an insight into the method of an excursion from the diary of the Rev. George Turnbull, minister at Tynninghame in the early eighteenth century.* In December 1701 he notes that he had attended the burial of 'Ann Hamilton, Lady Sydserff,' and relates how she fell off her horse 'from behind her own son-in-law, Mr. Matthew Reid, Minister at North Berwick.' The clerical diarist might have satisfied our curiosity to know whether the Rev. Matthew was on good terms with his mother-in-law!

It will have been noticed that, with the exceptions of Skirling and Henderland, all the properties were in the near vicinity of thriving towns, some close to Haddington and others near Duns, the principal town of Berwickshire. It must be remembered that although Berwick is on the Scottish bank of the Tweed, it was on many early occasions in English hands, the scene of frequent bloody contests, and was finally ceded to England in 1482. In 1551, however, it was made independent of both countries, and remains so to this

* *Scottish History Society*, vol. xv. p. 409.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

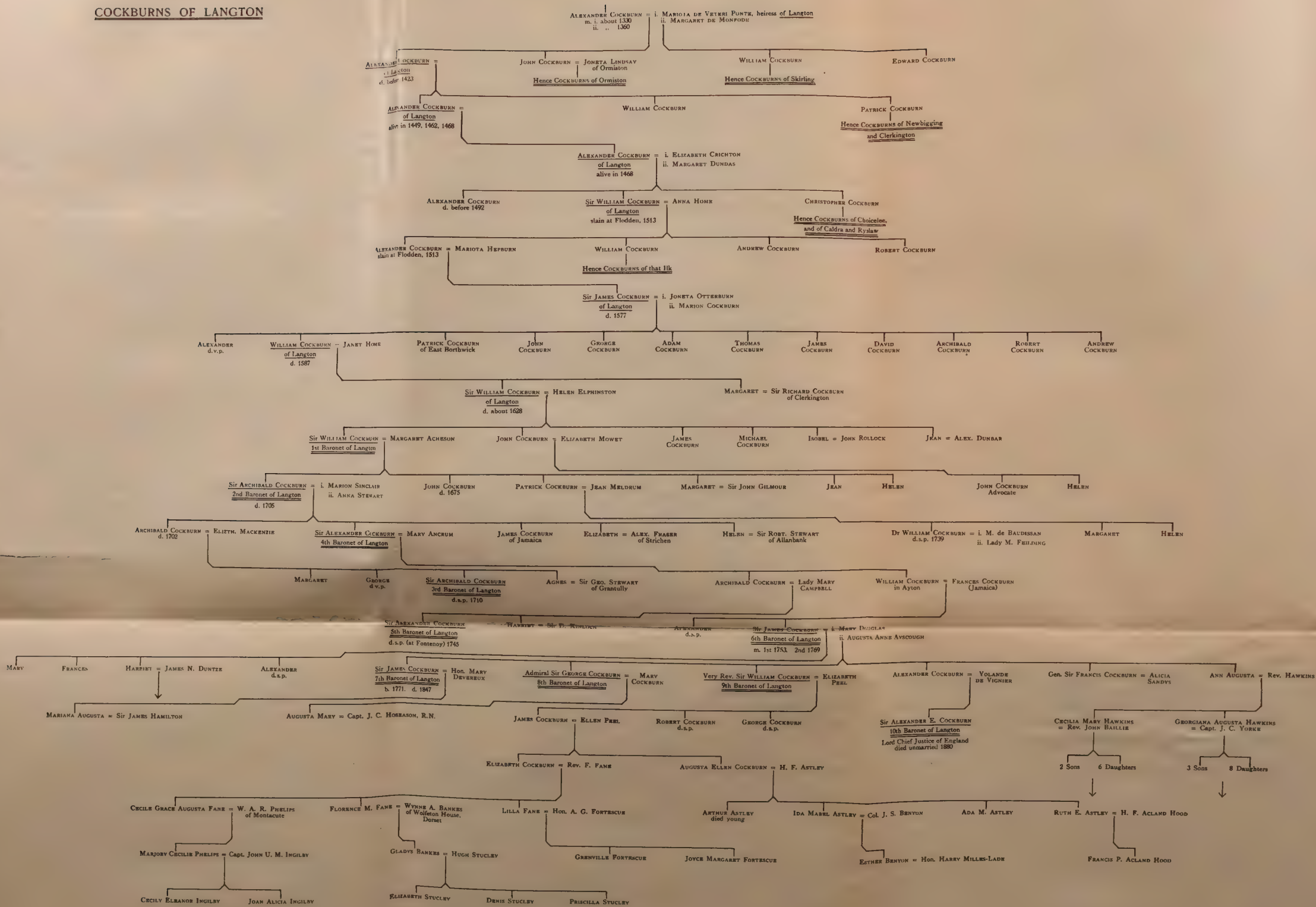
day; but stringent regulations were made to prevent the Scots from living within the boundaries, and in 1599 we find presentments to the following effect:—

‘ That no Scottish born persons ought to inhabit within this Town . . . that it is not lawful for the Scots repairing to this town to walk about the streets after the watch bell is rung at night, neither for any Scottish people resorting hither with victuals or otherwise to be permitted to walk about the streets from house to house, hearing, seeing, and marking what they please, and using liberty of unlawful speeches with their weapons about them, for it hath been accustomed that they should leave their weapons at the gate or in their host houses, and their market being done they ought to depart the town two hours before the gates do lock, to be forth of the bounds and over the bound road before sunset, keeping the direct way, without riding up and down the bounds in their coming and returning as they do.’ *

This account of the old family properties must now be brought to a conclusion, the picture being necessarily rather depressing when it is recollected that the various branches have all lost their estates, and that now no Cockburns own more than perhaps an acre or two in the country where they were once so influential.

* *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Berwick-on-Tweed). *MSS. in var. Coll.*, vol. i. pp. 24, 25.

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THE name of Cockburn occurs several times in Scots records of the thirteenth century. A Piers Cockburn (or de Cockburn)* about 1230, a Sir John Cockburn of Torry about the same date, a Sir Robert Cockburn about 1262, and a Sir Thomas Cockburn a few years later, appear as witnesses to charters.† The Ragmans Roll, a record of the Scottish gentry who swore fealty to King Edward I. of England at Berwick in 1296, after he had defeated the Scots at Dunbar and compelled John Baliol to resign the crown, contains the names of Piers and Thomas Cockburn. But that these isolated bearers of the same surname were closely related there is nothing to show. It is true that Mr. Hood in his *House of Cockburn* arranges them into a connected pedigree, but his effort is more ingenious than convincing. The processes, whatever they were, by which he arrived at his conclusions would scarcely commend themselves to serious genealogists.

It is, of course, possible that the modern lines of Cockburn are sprung from one of those who knelt to Edward at Berwick. The name of Piers recurs at no very distant date among the Cockburns of Henderland; and Piers Cockburn of the Ragmans Roll was perhaps the ancestor of that house. He may have been the father of that Nigel Cockburn to whom the lands of Henderland were *restored* (see p. 101), and Nigel again may have been elder brother of Alexander Cockburn of Langton, on whom those lands were settled in default of the descendants of Nigel. But this is sheer conjecture. The first name which can with certainty be set at the head of a Cockburn of Langton pedigree is that of ALEXANDER COCKBURN, who about 1330 founded the

* In Latin documents the name was usually written '*de* Cockburn.' This merely means that it was of territorial origin. To keep the Latin form in an English work, though it is not infrequently done, is false antiquarianism. In this book the modern form of the name will be used throughout.

† See *The Swintons of that ilk*.

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fortunes of his house by marriage with Mariota de Veteri Ponte, or Vipont, an heiress of Norman blood.

Whether her ancestors accompanied Duke William to England, or were of the more numerous company which followed later when victory was sure, these Viponts grew powerful in the land of their adoption. Originally settled in Northamptonshire, as they increased they sought new homes in more northern shires. Various branches of them owned broad lands in Yorkshire, Westmorland, and Northumberland; in the Lowland Border country known as the Merce, and in Linlithgowshire. From these last came the bride of the first of the Cockburns. Only child of Sir William Vipont, who was slain on the field of Bannockburn in 1314, she brought her husband the baronies of Langton near Duns, Bolton near Haddington, and Carriden in Linlithgowshire.

Of this union were born at least two sons: Alexander, the heir, and John, who married Joneta Lindsay and became the progenitor of the Cockburns of Ormiston (see p. 113).

The date of Mariota's death is unknown, but about 1360, or soon after, Alexander Cockburn married Margaret de Monfode, daughter of Sir John Monfode of Skirling and Braidwood, by whom he also had two sons: William, who succeeded to Skirling (see p. 137), and Edward Cockburn.

ALEXANDER COCKBURN, elder son of Alexander Cockburn of Langton and his first wife, succeeded to Langton, was knighted, and became keeper of the Great Seal, being mentioned in that capacity in many charters. He, or possibly his father, was in 1373 also created Usher to the King, or, as it was styled, *Ostiarius Parliamenti*. The charter conferring this dignity, which was dated at Scone 8th March in the fourth year of the reign of Robert II.—*i.e.* 1373—is

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no longer in existence. By 1681 it was already 'somewhat old or lost'; and in that year, on the petition of Sir Archibald Cockburn, then of Langton, it was renewed. The record made in the Acts of the Scottish Parliament cites the terms of the original, which are ordered to be 'insert and registrat.' Thence it appears that the charter confirmed the baronies of Carriden, Bolton, and Langton to Alexander Cockburn, and bestowed the Principal Ushership on him and his heirs. This grant was not to prove an unmixed blessing. It has several times happened that there have been rival claimants to the office, and in more recent years disputes have arisen as to fees, for the temporary settlement of which the only recourse has been to law.

Alexander Cockburn died some time before 1423. No information is forthcoming as to the name of his wife. Mr. Hood, without offering any authority for his statement, declares that she was Marjory, daughter of Patrick Hepburn of Hales and Auldhamstocks. But Mr. Hood apparently has a secret source from which to supply wives as they were required. Here, as in so many other cases, it is impossible to accept his word. The loss of the wife's name, however, is a matter of secondary importance, in that in Scots records a rigid distinction is always made between legitimate and illegitimate children; nor did the latter ever succeed to entailed estates even when they had been legitimised by the Crown.

It may safely be asserted, therefore, that Alexander Cockburn's children were born in wedlock. He had three sons: Alexander, William, and Patrick. The order of their birth is established by a charter dated 1423, confirmed by James II. in 1440-1,* whereby William Cockburn is invested with lands in Carmanoch, Aldirstoun, Ricart, Yongiston, and Kirklee in Lanarkshire. The fact that William is

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 256.

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here styled son of the late Sir Alexander Cockburn of Langton, knight, shows that he was not the eldest son, in which case, his father being dead, he would have been 'of Langton.' The further fact that, his legitimate heirs failing, Carmanoch was entailed on his brother Patrick, makes it seem extremely probable that Patrick was younger than William.

William Cockburn was shield-bearer to Archibald Douglas, fourth Earl of Douglas, the daring, ambitious, and unfortunate lord who fell at Verneuil in 1424. In this capacity he must have had an adventurous career, and the lands in Lanarkshire were given to him by the earl out of his baronies of Carmanoch and Bothwell '*pro fidelio servitio sibi impenso et impendendo.*'

Patrick Cockburn was the progenitor of the Clerkington family.

Of ALEXANDER COCKBURN, third of his name to hold Langton, and presumably elder brother of William the shield-bearer and of Patrick, scarcely anything is known. In July 1449 he was conveying the lands of Balnehard in the barony of Carriden to Patrick de Cornwell,* and in March 1462 he is mentioned with his kinsman and namesake of Ormiston in an instrument of sasine.† Six years later he was apparently still alive, when 'Alexander of Cockburn, son and apparent heir of Alexander of Cockburn of Langton,' witnessed a charter of Sir Alexander Home of that Ilk.‡

At this point a problem arises. In November 1462 Sir John Cockburn is mentioned in the Laing charters as Usher to the King.§ Now one would naturally expect that office to descend in tail male after the usual fashion, and to pass

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 313.

† *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Milne Home), p. 257.

‡ *Ibid.* (Earl of Home), p. 110.

§ *Laing Charters*, Nos. 149, 150.

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from father to son with the Langton estates. But Sir John Cockburn was clearly not of Langton, where the third Alexander was reigning laird. Nor is it even probable that he was of the Langton line. On the other hand, he was possibly Sir John Cockburn of Torry in Fife, and it may be that he exercised the ushership as deputy on account of the old age or some temporary disability of the legitimate holder.

Of the death of Alexander, the third of Langton, there is no record; but it was presumably his son, the witness to the Home charter of 1468, to whom, as ALEXANDER COCKBURN of Langton, the lands of Carriden were confirmed by James III. in March 1473-4.* Cockburn had surrendered these lands, and the new grant was to him and his wife, Margaret Dundas, and to the survivor of them, with remainder to his heirs by his former wife, Elizabeth Crichton.

He had three sons: (1) Alexander, who was probably the child of Elizabeth Crichton, for he was of age to witness a charter in 1482, when he was described as heir to Langton. † He was dead before 1492. (2) William, described as heir in 1492, ‡ who carried on the line. (3) Christopher, ancestor of the Cockburns of Choicelee, § from whom came Cockburns of Caldra, Ryslaw, Cockpen, etc.

Alexander Cockburn, the father, died some time between 1492 and 1507. || With him came to an end the unbroken line of Alexanders who had reigned at Langton for about one hundred and seventy years.

WILLIAM COCKBURN of Langton, who was head of his house and a knight by 1507, ¶ was with his son Alexander

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 1156.

† *Ibid.*, No. 1556.

‡ *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Hay of Duns Castle), p. 67.

§ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 1475.

|| *Ibid.*, vol. ii. No. 3169.

¶ *Ibid.*

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a special favourite of James IV. It was an ill-fated friendship. When in 1513 the King took his rash resolve to march against the English, both father and son answered the call to arms; and on the stricken field of Flodden they were numbered among the slain. James himself and the flower of Scottish manhood fell that day. There was scarcely a house which was not a house of mourning. The house of Cockburn of Langton mourned both its master and its heir.

About 1480 William Cockburn had married one Anne Home, whose connection with any of the numerous Border families of that name is difficult to trace. Several genealogists* have stated that she was a daughter of the Earl of Home; but the earldom was not created until 1604, and there is no proof that she was even a daughter of one of the first earl's ancestors, the Barons Home. There is, however, one interesting point about her, or rather about her patronymic. In records in Paris her name is written Anne de l'Euxme—that is, Anne de le 'Euxme or 'ume—which shows that, then as now, the pronunciation of Home and Hume was identical. In dealing with the Cockburns in France we shall find evidence that that name also was pronounced as nowadays.

Sir William Cockburn had by his wife Anne Home five sons: Alexander, who was killed at Flodden; William, Christopher, Andrew, and Robert, and a daughter Margaret, who married Sir William Cockburn of Skirling. William became the progenitor of the family 'of that ilk,' while Andrew and Robert are merely mentioned in a sasine deed of 1533 as his brothers-german. †

In 1510, ‡ three years before his death, Alexander Cockburn, the eldest son and heir-apparent, married Mariota

* Playfair, Betham, etc.

† *Laing Charters*, No. 391.

‡ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 3488.

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Hepburn, and at the same time received from King James a fresh charter of the land of Langton and Carriden, which his father had a few months before resigned to him.* As far as can be ascertained, Alexander and Mariota had two children only: James, who succeeded his grandfather, and William, who occurs as witness to a charter in 1546.†

JAMES COCKBURN of Langton was, of course, a mere child when his father and grandfather fell at Flodden, and consequently some years elapse before anything is heard of him. In 1525, ‡ however, his name occurs in a precept of sasine, connected with his cousin William of Chouslie, son and heir of the late Christopher; whilst four years later, in August 1529, he was implicated in a deadly feud between the laird of Edmonstoune and the Wauchopes of Niddrie-Marschall, when his kinsman Patrick of Newbigging, John Penicuik of that Ilk, Patrick Sydserf of that Ilk, the young laird of Scougall and many others were involved.§

In 1537 the laird of Langton, along with many other lairds and nobles, was warned to prepare ‘again the Kingis grace’s hame cuming’||—James v. being about to bring his bride, Princess Magdalene, back from France. She, however, died the same year; and King James again sought a French wife, choosing Mary of Guise, whom he married in 1538. By her he became the father of the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots, of whose birth—and of her father’s almost simultaneous death—in 1541 Sir James Balfour gives a quaint account:—

‘ . . . the King sickenes of a fever at Falkland; the Queen in the mean tyme is brought to bed of a daughter, christened Marey. Newes whereof being brought

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 3422.

† *Laing Charters*, No. 348.

|| *Lord Treasurer’s Accounts*.

† *Ibid.*, vol. iii. No. 73.

§ *Pitcairn, Grim. Trials*.

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to the King, he turns himself to the wall and with a grivous grone, sayes, Scotland did come with a lasse and it will goe with one, devil goe with it; and so without aney more wordis to a purpois, departs this lyffe.*

Two years later, King Henry VIII. being anxious to arrange a marriage between the infant Mary and his son, afterwards King Edward VI., Scotland was divided between those who favoured this match and those who desired a French alliance for their queen. This led to the English invasion under the Earl of Hertford (afterwards Duke of Somerset), who brought an army across the Border and devastated the Lowlands.

Together with several of his relations and a great number of neighbouring lairds who were in favour of a Protestant marriage for their child-queen, James Cockburn was in friendly communication with the English.

In August 1547 he wrote to Somerset:—

‘Your Grace’s goodness and mercy to me and my friends, when your last army was in Scotland, has bound us to your service. Yet though then assured by your Grace, the Warden of the East Marches, Captain of Norham, has taken from me and my tenants two hundred head of cattle—and to prove it I have ever, as I promised your Grace, reported our doings to Mr. Gower the Marshal of Berwick. But you know I cannot keep my house against all Scotland, standing so far from help. Of late when in danger for my Lord Bothwell’s trouble, your Grace still protected me and promised pay of twenty-four men to garrison my house if needed. Yet my Lord Bothwell, and many other lords, lairds and gentlemen, is in as much danger as ever on account of an register book found in Master Belnave’s chamber in the castle of St. Andrews and

* Balfour, *Annals of Scotland*, vol. i.

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now in the Governor's custody with their names and handwriting to support England. If the King's army comes not forward the Earls Marshal, Cassillis, Kilmaurs and Lord Gray will be in jeopardy. . . . There are ten score lairds and landed gentlemen in that register.*

Whatever James Cockburn of Langton's services to England may have been, they were evidently inconsiderable in comparison with those of his kinsman, John Cockburn of Ormiston, whose zeal for the Protestant match led to the temporary confiscation of his estates in Scotland. James of Langton, on the other hand, managed to maintain his position, and later on became sheriff of Berwickshire, having been honoured with a knighthood some time before 1574.†

At some date prior to 1540‡ Sir James Cockburn married Joneta Otterburn, who is said to have been a daughter of John Otterburn of Reidhall near Colinton. From the dates it is much more likely that she was a sister of John Otterburn, and consequently daughter of the celebrated Sir Adam Otterburn who died in 1548.§ This family was again connected with the Cockburns by the marriage in 1594 of Thomas Otterburn, younger of Reidhall, to Marion, daughter of John Cockburn of Clerkington.||

Sir James married secondly, before 1574, his cousin Margaret Cockburn, daughter of Sir William Cockburn of Skirling.¶ By each of his wives he had a large family.

Alexander, the eldest son, died in his father's lifetime, though he must have reached the age of manhood; William succeeded to Langton; Patrick became of East Borthwick, and will be dealt with presently; John is mentioned in his

* *Cal. Scottish Papers*, ed. Bain, vol. i. p. 14.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 2331.

§ *Annals of Colinton*.

¶ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 2331.

‡ *Ibid.*, No. 73.

|| *Laing Charters*, No. 1273.

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father's will* ; George; Adam was sheriff-depute of Berwickshire, and appears as a witness in 1581;† and Thomas was executor of his father's will, in which are also named James, David, Archibald, Robert, and Andrew, as sons, along with six daughters: Agnes, Helen, Lillias, Janet, Margaret, and Elspeth Cockburn. It is difficult to say which wife presented Sir James with the greater number of these eighteen children, but it seems probable that the first five sons, and some of the daughters, were the offspring of Joneta Otterburn.

Sir James Cockburn of Langton died 4th March 1577,‡ and was succeeded by his eldest surviving son.

WILLIAM COCKBURN was not destined to enjoy Langton for long, for in February 1587,§ within ten years of his father's death, he himself joined the majority, and it would seem that his wife died about the same time.

By his wife Janet Home (of the Wedderburn family probably) he had an only son William, his heir, and a daughter Margaret, who married about 1603 Sir Richard Cockburn of Clerkington as his second wife.||

WILLIAM COCKBURN, only son of William Cockburn of Langton, was a minor when his parents died, and was under the guardianship of his uncle, Patrick Cockburn of East Borthwick, who constantly appears in the records as 'Tutor of Langton.'

In 1595, however, probably on his coming of age, he was granted by King James VI. a fresh charter of Langton—the lands, barony, castle, mills, woods, fisheries, etc.—and the office of Principal Usher, with the requisite attendants, as granted to his forbears, and with the power of holding

* *Edin. Tests*, July 1584.

† *Edin. Tests*, July 1584.

‡ *Hay Deeds*, vol. xcix., February 1604.

† *Laing Charters*, No. 1035.

§ *Ibid.*, July 1590.

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the town of Langton as a free burgh of barony, with its cross and weekly market, etc.*

Again, in February 1609 he was granted a fresh charter of similar import—for what reason it is a little hard to say, except that on this occasion, failing his own legitimate male heirs, the property and rights were settled on his brother-in-law, Sir Richard Cockburn of Clerkington, and his heirs male. From this charter it appears that the laird of Langton had received the honour of knighthood.†

In June 1612 he received a ‘licence to go abroad for three years on condition of his loyalty to the King and to the true religion during his absence.’‡ Whither he went it is impossible to say; but he does not appear to have outstayed his leave, for five years later he was back in Scotland serving on a committee of Berwickshire lairds ordered to see that the roads between Berwick and Dunglas were made passable for coaches and carts.§ This was in view of the arrival in Scotland of King James the Sixth of Scotland and First of England, who was about to renew his acquaintance with the land of his birth. In June 1617 their Majesties duly arrived; but whatever the state of the roads may have been, their progress was leisurely||; from Berwick to Dunglas, thence to Seton, and thence to Edinburgh; evidently three days for a journey which could nowadays be completed by road in three or four hours.

In July 1621 Sir William incurred the displeasure of the Privy Council by ‘usurping upon him’ the office of Usher during the time Parliament was sitting: ‘The Lordis of the Secret Counsaill having divers tymes admonishe him to forbear that service seeing that he was never in possession thair of.’¶ Remembering that in 1609 he was undoubtedly

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. vi. No. 365.

† *Reg. P. C.*, vol. ix. p. 391.

|| Balfour, *Annals*.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. vii. No. 24.

§ *Ibid.*, vol. xi. p. 93.

¶ *Reg. P. C.*, vol. xii. p. 548.

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granted a fresh charter conferring on him this hereditary honour, which had been enjoyed by so many of his ancestors, it is difficult to see how the lords justified this assertion. Nevertheless, 'as his contestation might procure some disturbance of the peace and he having obstinatlie and contemptuuslie refused to forbear . . . therefor the said lords ordainis him to be committed to warde within the castell of Edinburgh.' For what period this seemingly unjust imprisonment lasted we have no knowledge, but it is improbable that it was for long. The whole episode, however, is mysterious, and its obscurity increased by the fact that in 1625 a Maxwell was appointed Usher. But sixteen years later the Cockburn interest was retrieved by Sir William's eldest son, the first baronet of Langton.

Little more is heard of Sir William Cockburn. He died about 1628, his son Sir William, 'miles baronettus,' being retoured his heir 21st May 1629.* About 1609 he had married Helen, daughter of Alexander, fourth Lord Elphinstone. This Lord Elphinstone† had in 1575 married Jane Livingstone (daughter of William, sixth Lord Livingstone), by whom he had no less than nineteen children. Eight of them, however, died young, and Helen Elphinstone was the youngest but one of the horde. Sir William and Lady Cockburn had four sons and two daughters: William, the heir, created a baronet in 1627 (of whom hereafter), John, James, and Michael; Isobel and Jean.

Lady Cockburn survived her husband many years, and seems to have outlived all her children, with the possible exception of one of her daughters. She married, secondly, the Rev. Henry Rollock, or Rollo, who died about 1648, leaving her once more a widow. In February 1675 she was buried in Old Greyfriars churchyard.‡

* *Berwickshire Retours.*

† *Scots Peerage*, ed. Balfour Paul.

‡ *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

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Lady Cockburn was at one time a sufferer by the unnatural behaviour of her son, Sir William Cockburn of Langton, who had quartered soldiers on her and her tenants at Simprim (a portion of the barony of Langton in which she was life-renter), and in 1648 she petitioned Parliament that her lands might come under the jurisdiction of the Earl of Haddington instead of under that of her son Sir William, with whom she had had differences and 'debaittis' since the death of his father.*

John Cockburn, the second son of Sir William Cockburn and Helen Elphinstone, became an advocate, and on 23rd November 1643 married Elizabeth Mowet,† by whom he had a daughter Helen, born in November 1644,‡ and a son John, born in September 1655.§ The father must have died prior to July 1663, for on her death at that date Elizabeth Cockburn was described as his widow.|| John Cockburn, the son, likewise became an advocate in due course, and is mentioned in two deeds¶ of December 1680 and February 1690, but little more is heard of him. On 26th March 1707 a Captain John, 'son to the deceased Mr. John Cockburn Advocate,' was present in the castle of Edinburgh when the Scottish regalia was lodged in the Crown Room at the time of the Union.** It is evident, therefore, that the younger advocate married; but his family has not been traced.

James and Michael, the two remaining sons of Sir William Cockburn and Helen Elphinstone, died young, a few years after their father. They are both mentioned in a deed as being deceased in February 1636.

* *Acts Parl. Scot.*, vol. vi. pt. ii. p. 67.

† *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

‡ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

§ *Ibid.*

|| *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

¶ *Mackenzie Deeds.*

** Pamphlets in Advocates' Library.

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Isobel, the eldest daughter, married in 1636 John Rollock, second son of Sir Andrew Rollock of Duncrub. Sir Andrew Rollock (or Rollo) was in 1651 created Baron Rollo, a title which is still extant, and he was second cousin to the Rev. Henry Rollo, who married Sir William Cockburn of Langton's widow. Isobel Cockburn and Sir John Rollock (he was knighted about 1650) had three daughters: Marion,* married to Robert Forrest; Helen* to James Pearson of Kippenross; and Anna* to George Graham of Pitcairns, afterwards of Monzie.

Jean Cockburn, the younger daughter, married in 1632 Alexander Dunbar of West Grange, son of Thomas Dunbar of the family of Westfield.†

SIR WILLIAM COCKBURN, the next of Langton, was created a baronet by Charles I. on 27th November 1627, during his father's lifetime. It has been questioned whether he or his father was the first to receive this new hereditary title, but in the Register of Precepts for Charters to the Baronets of Nova Scotia it is distinctly stated that 'William Cockburn apparent of Langton' was so honoured.‡ This seems to settle the question. It is true that in some deeds referring obviously to this Sir William he is called son of the late Sir William of Langton, knight-baronet, but such mistakes on the part of the notaries who drew up deeds are not infrequent.

In 1641 the question as to the Cockburn right to the Ushership of the White Rod arose once again, and Sir William Cockburn seems to have created a scene in the presence of the King himself. Sir James Balfour says:—

'17 August, Session I. The King's Majestie came to the hous about 11 houres, the heraulds preceding the honors, and the trumpets them.

* *Scots Peerage*, ed. Balfour Paul.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ix. No. 372.

‡ Fol. 63.

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‘At his Majestie’s entrance into the Hous, the Laird of Langtoun, with a batton in his hand, went before the honors as grate usher, and offered to make civil interruption for the maintenance of his right. The King retired to the inner roome in a choler and there subscribed a warrant to put the Laird of Langton in the Castle.’*

However, Sir William being himself a member of Parliament—

‘the House did humblie supplicat his Majestie that he would not commit Langton to the Castle, and so dismember their House. After much intrety his Majestie was graciously pleased onlie to confyne him till tomorrow to his own chamber. So with a prayer his Majestie returned to his palace of Holyrudhousse to dinner.’

From this time forward disputes as to the Ushership were of constant recurrence, Maxwells and Cunninghams and Cockburns all claiming the right, and compromises were effected which apparently satisfied the claimants for the time being.†

With the exceptions of the above-mentioned ‘scene’ and the questions which devolved from it, and his ‘differences and debaittis’ with his mother, we hear remarkably little of this laird of Langton; and he died about 1657, in which year his son Sir Archibald was retoured his heir.

Sir William married Margaret Acheson, daughter of Sir Archibald Acheson of Gosford, ancestor of the present Lord Gosford, by whom he had three sons: Archibald, John, and Patrick, and three daughters: Margaret, Jean, and Helen.

Of John, the second son, nothing is known except that in 1657 he was a minor, and died in November 1675.‡

* *Annals*, vol. iii.

† Cf. *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ix. No. 1736.

‡ *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

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Patrick, the third son, is notable as the father of a celebrated man, Dr. William Cockburn, the only Cockburn, to our knowledge, who has had the honour of burial in Westminster Abbey. Patrick Cockburn married Jean Meldrum, a daughter perhaps of Joseph Meldrum, minister of the College Kirk in Edinburgh, who witnessed the baptism of Patrick's only son. In addition to that son he had two daughters: Margaret, born in December 1670,* and Helen, born in May 1672.* It is evident from their brother's will, made in 1738, that they both died unmarried, or at any rate left no descendants.

William Cockburn, Patrick's only son, was born in December 1668.† Among the witnesses to his baptism, besides Joseph Meldrum, were Sir John Gilmour, his uncle by marriage, and President of the Court of Session, and Sir Andrew Ramsay of Abbotshall, the Lord Provost. He took his M.A. degree at Edinburgh University, and thence proceeded to Leyden, entering as student of medicine in May 1691.‡ In 1694 he became a licentiate of the College of Physicians of London, and was attached to the fleet. After a couple of years or so as physician to the Blue Squadron, he published the first of a large number of medical works, a volume entitled, in the ponderous fashion then in vogue, *An Account of the Nature, Causes, Symptoms, and Cure of the Distempers that are incident to Seafaring People with Observations on the Diet of Sea-men in His Majesty's Navy*. Not content with this, he produced in the following year *A Continuation of the Account, etc., etc., etc.*, which is interesting to us from the fact that the author dates

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*



Guilielmus Cockburn M.D.

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it 'From my lodgings in Great Suffolk Street, near Charing Cross.'

On 9th September 1698 Dr. Cockburn, at St. James's Church, Westminster, married Mary de Baudisson, a widow, * who died in 1728 without issue.

He seems to have kept up an intermittent connection with the Navy, but he was also a successful practitioner in London. Among his patients was Dean Swift, who mentions in his journal the pills and 'drops' prescribed for him by 'honest Dr. Cockburn.' The great satirist was also an intimate friend, if we may judge from the number of times which he dined with his physician during 1710 and 1711. On one occasion, it is true, Swift, possibly a little out of sorts after an extra heavy dinner, expresses displeasure at his entertainment. 'I dined today with Dr. Cockburn,' he writes under date 21st January 1711, 'but will not do so again in haste, he has generally such a parcel of Scots with him'—a nation for which Swift had no partiality!

A year after his first wife's death the doctor, described as 'of St. George's, Hanover Square, widower,' again married.† An account of his wooing and wedding has been left by the gossiping Mrs. Delany.‡ Writing in April 1729 to her sister Anne Granville she says: 'Dr. Cockburn, an old, very rich, quack is married to my Lady Mary Feilding. She is very ugly; he went one morning to make a visit and found Lady Mary weeping. He asked her what was the matter; she said that her circumstances were so bad that she could

* *Harleian Society*, vol. xxiv. p. 230.

† *Ibid.*, p. 252.

‡ *Mrs. Delany's Life and Correspondence*, vol. i. pp. 209-10.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

no longer live in town, but must retire to the country; she was not anxious about leaving London, but regretted some friends she must leave behind. He said, "Madam, may I hope I am one of these?" "Certainly, Doctor, for you have always shown us great friendship." "Then, Madam, if an old man and fifty thousand pounds can be acceptable you may put off your journey whenever you please." She did not long demur, and after ten days' courtship they were married. Nobody blames the lady; the man is called an old fool.'

Lady Mary, who was daughter of Basil, fourth Earl of Denbigh, was thirty years of age at the time of her marriage to the 'old fool'; but she died three years later, in October 1732, without issue. Dr. Cockburn was appointed physician to Greenwich Hospital in 1731,* and in November 1739 he died at his 'residence in St. James Street near Piccadilly,' being afterwards buried in Westminster Abbey.

His interment at Westminster seems to have been prearranged, for in his will, † dated eleven months before his death, he gave directions that on his body being taken to Westminster Abbey to lie beside his late wife, it was to be borne by daylight in a hearse drawn by six horses and followed by four coaches each drawn by a similar number. In this will he leaves to his cousin Helen Cockburn, widow of Sir Robert Stewart of Allanbank, the jewels which had belonged to his late wife, and the residue of his estate, subject to some legacies to his cousin Mrs. Ann Cant and her niece Amelia

* *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

† *Prerog. Ct. Canterbury.*

COCKBURNS OF LANGTON

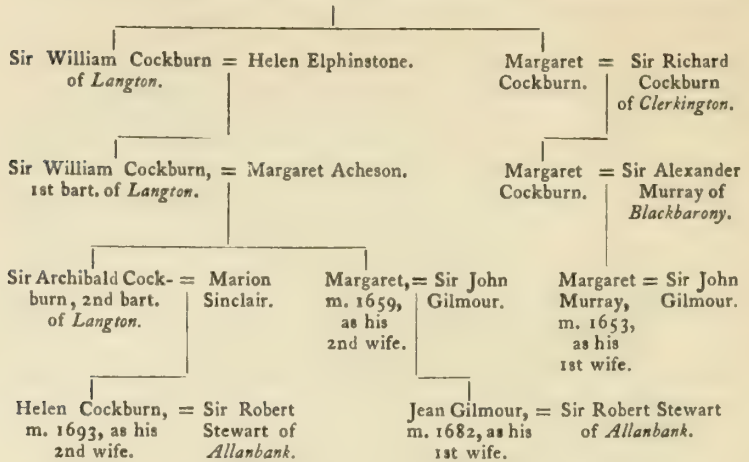
White (persons whom we are unable to identify), to Sir Alexander Cockburn of Langton, his cousin, whom, however, he calls Alexander Cockburn of Langton, Esq. He also mentions John Cockburn of Ormiston, the Commissioner of the Navy, and James Cockburn, secretary to the Duke of Argyll who had been Commander-in-Chief in Scotland.

Of the daughters of Sir William Cockburn, first baronet of Langton—Margaret, Jean, and Helen—the two latter are merely mentioned (along with Margaret) in a deed executed by their eldest brother, Sir Archibald, binding himself to pay certain sums of money to them the first Whitsunday or Martinmas after their respective marriages, and in the meantime to provide them with the necessities of life.* Margaret married in 1659 Sir John Gilmour, Lord President of the Court of Session, as his second wife. His first wife, Margaret Murray, who died in 1658, had been her second cousin, Margaret Murray's mother having been a Cockburn of Clerkington, whose mother was a Cockburn of Langton. The somewhat intricate relationship between Cockburns of Langton, Cockburns of Clerkington, Gilmours of Craigmillar, and lastly Stewarts of Allanbank, will be more easily seen if set out in pedigree form.

* *Mackenzie Deeds*, March 1662.

[TABLE.]

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From the above pedigree it will be seen that Margaret Cockburn had by Sir John Gilmour of Craigmillar a daughter Jean, who married in 1682 Sir Robert Stewart of Allanbank (a cadet of the present Seton-Stewart family). After her death Sir Robert married, secondly, about 1693 her first cousin Helen Cockburn, daughter of Sir Archibald, second baronet of Langton, and Marion Sinclair, his first wife.* Helen, Lady Allanbank, had an only son Archibald, born in October 1679, who, having been a wine merchant in Edinburgh, became Provost of the City in 1745, when it was occupied by the rebels. For his alleged partisanship as a Jacobite he was tried, and eventually acquitted; but he afterwards left the land of his birth and settled at Mitcham in Surrey, where he died without issue.

SIR ARCHIBALD COCKBURN, second baronet of Langton, succeeded his father about 1657, on 10th December of which year he was returned his heir in the lands and barony of Langton, with the Principal Ushership to the King and the

* *Coltness Coll.*

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privilege of holding Langton as a free burgh with the appurtenant advantages already described.*

This lairdship was destined to be the preface to many dark pages in the history of the house of Langton, and when a hundred years later the Cockburn family were obliged to part with the remainder of their Langton possessions, they were only reaping the crop the seeds of which were the financial embarrassments of the second baronet. Whether, like John Cockburn of Ormiston some eighty years later, his attempts to improve the condition of his lands led to the catastrophe, or whether he was simply a spendthrift, it is difficult to say. At any rate in 1665 he was bent on enclosing his lands, altering roads, and planting trees.† The 'way lying through Langton and Chously by reason of marshes, and quagmires, and a strait brae lying to the west end of Langton is impassable and incommodious.' Possibly he found that draining 'quagmires' and levelling 'braes' was a more costly undertaking than he had expected. Be that as it may, he was forced some twenty-five years later, in 1690, to meet his creditors, and for many a long day no satisfactory settlement was reached.

Sir Archibald was twice married; first, about 1659, to Marion Sinclair, daughter of John Sinclair the younger of Stevenson (a branch of the family of Longformacus). By her‡ he had four sons and two daughters: William, born February 1660§ (who must have died young); Archibald, his heir; Alexander, who eventually succeeded as fourth baronet; James,|| who migrated to Jamaica, and whose family is dealt with separately; Elizabeth, Helen, and Agnes.

Elizabeth married Alexander Fraser of Strichen on 1st

* *Berwick Retours*, No. 308. † *Reg. P. C.*, 3rd series, vol. ii. pp. 31, 48.

‡ *Part. Reg. Sas.*, Aug. 1672, vol. xx. fol. 454.

§ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

|| *Guild Roll of Edin.*, Feb. 1690.

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December 1688,* but she died without issue in July 1693.† Her husband, who was great-great-grandson of Thomas Fraser of Strichen, second son of the fourth Lord Lovat, married secondly a daughter of Lord Downe, by whom he had issue now represented by the present Lord Lovat. Her sister Helen Cockburn married, as noticed before, Sir Robert Stewart of Allanbank about 1693.‡

Sir Archibald Cockburn married secondly, in 1689, Anna, fifth daughter of Sir Thomas Stewart of Coltness and Margaret Elliot, by whom he had three sons, who predeceased him. The last of these is said to have been playing with dice in his mouth when one went down his windpipe and proved his instant death.‡ This must have been William Cockburn, who in January 1698 was declared 'heir of provision' (*haeres provisionis*) to his grandmother Margaret Elliot in the lands of Goodtrees in the county of Edinburgh, when he must have been quite a youth.§

The same volume of contemporary family history records that Anna Stewart, the second wife, 'just lived to see the catastrophe of Sir Archibald's affairs and of Langton estate, and, dying on 9th November 1693, was buried in the family monument at Langton. Sir Archibald for the most part after her death was either in prison or in the Abbey Sanctuary [a refuge for bankrupts], and was buried from Holyrood house in his own burial place in Langton in August 1704.'||

Despite his financial troubles, both Sir Archibald and his son Archibald were members of the Scottish Parliaments for a number of years.

* *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

† *Coltness Coll.*

|| *Scot. Rec. Soc.*, vol. xl. p. 11, 28th June 1705.

† *Scots Peerage*, ed. Balfour Paul.

§ *Edin. Retours*, No. 1365.

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Archibald Cockburn, the eldest surviving son, married about 1684 Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, the celebrated Lord Advocate of Scotland, and by her he had Margaret, born (or baptised) in January 1685*; George in June 1686 (who must have died young); Archibald in November 1687, who succeeded his grandfather as third baronet; and Elizabeth in 1689. Another daughter, Agnes, married Sir George Stewart of Grantully, but died at Dundee in August 1757 without issue.† This Archibald, younger of Langton, died on 22nd August 1702,‡ during his father's lifetime, and his widow married in 1707‡ the Hon. James Mackenzie, a Lord of Session by the title of Lord Royston.

SIR ARCHIBALD COCKBURN, third baronet, succeeded his grandfather in the title and in what little was left of the estate of Langton. He had, however, little opportunity of showing what his abilities and qualities were, for he died in London in February 1710 unmarried, when he was succeeded by his uncle, Alexander Cockburn.

SIR ALEXANDER COCKBURN, fourth baronet, who on 20th April 1711 had sasine of the lands and barony of Langton, including the lands of Simprim and Cumledge,§ was probably born about 1662-3. He was another 'Heritable Usher' who had difficulty in upholding his claims.|| It appears that his father's creditors, who obtained possession of his estates, likewise claimed the office of Usher. By the Treaty of Union in 1707, however, the Scottish heritable offices were reserved to their owners; and in 1714, on the accession of King George I., Sir Alexander petitioned to be allowed to walk at the coronation as his predecessors had

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Scots Peerage*, ed. Balfour Paul.

|| See *Scottish Antiquary*, vol. xi. p. 164.

‡ *Dunkeld Tests.*

§ *Sasines*, Berwick.

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done. In 1727, when George II. was crowned, he renewed his petition; but in both cases it was refused, on the grounds that he had no proof that his ancestors had attended previous coronations in a similar capacity. It is interesting to notice that on the second occasion he petitioned that his cousin, Dr. William Cockburn, might take his place as representative, owing to his (Sir Alexander's) great age and inability to undertake the journey to London. Dr. Cockburn, we can imagine from his will, was a somewhat pompous person. He would have revelled in the function which he was not given an opportunity of exercising.

By his wife Mary Ancrum, who died in September 1714,* Sir Alexander had two sons, Archibald and William, by whose successive deaths his declining years were saddened. He himself died in 1739.

Archibald, the elder son and heir-apparent, was baptised on 30th December 1692, became an advocate in June 1715, and on 11th April 1719 married Lady Mary Campbell, daughter of John, first Earl of Breadalbane,† by whom he had Alexander, *fifth baronet*, and a daughter Hariot, married in January 1746 to Sir David Kinloch of Gilmerton. He died in January 1735.‡

William, the younger son of Sir Alexander Cockburn and Mary Ancrum, was a merchant in Ayton, and married his cousin Frances, daughter of Dr. James Cockburn of Jamaica, by whom he had two sons, Alexander and James, and a daughter, Mary. William Cockburn died at Ayton in July 1731.§

Alexander, the elder son, was in the Royal Navy. He was named as heir in the will of the fifth baronet, but apparently predeceased his cousin, though

* *Services of Heirs*, 17th Nov. 1720.

† *Greyfriars Reg.*

‡ *Canongate Reg. Marr.*

§ *Lauder Tests.*

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administration of his estate was not granted until 1747.* This grant was to Thomas Cockburn, law-ful attorney to Frances Cockburn, his mother, 'now residing in Langton.' Alexander was described as of H.M.S. *Medway*.†

James, the younger son, became *sixth baronet*.

Mary, the daughter, died unmarried.

SIR ALEXANDER COCKBURN, fifth baronet of Langton, son of Archibald Cockburn and Lady Mary Campbell, succeeded his grandfather in the title, and though his life was short it was probably a merry one, if we may judge from the codicil to his will. He was early deprived of his natural guardians. His mother, Lady Mary, died at Langton in August 1725,‡ when he cannot have been much more than five years of age, and he lost his father when he was about fifteen. He entered the Army, and became an ensign in the first regiment of Guards, served under the Duke of Cumberland in Belgium, and was killed at the battle of Fontenoy, 30th April 1745.§

In his will|| he mentions as his successor his cousin Alexander, eldest son of his deceased uncle, William Cockburn, late of Ayton; whom failing, the younger son James (who eventually succeeded); whom failing, his male cousins in Jamaica and their heirs male; but it is from the codicil, dated three days before his death, that one gets an impression that this young man was a travelled and experienced man of the world. He begs his heir to 'satisfy Mr. Coudet, merchant in Marseilles, for what sums may be due to him for certain reasons not exceeding twenty pounds.' He continues: 'There is a real debt by Cornet Scott of the Greys, three hundred and fifty pounds; this he will pay himself

* See G. E. C. *Complete Baronetage*, vol. ii. p. 329, note 'a.'

† Prerog. Ct. Canterbury.

§ *Scots Mag.*

‡ *Lyon Office Escutcheons.*

|| Prerog. Ct. Canterbury.

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if he has not the same fate as me; if he has, his brother will not refuse to pay. . . . Mr. Scott the father by no means to be consulted. There is due to me likewise by Ensign Murray of the 3rd regiment eight ducats lent a fortnight ago.' Ensign Murray, however, met the same fate as his creditor, his name, too, appearing in the list of killed.* The codicil finishes: 'I desire that all anonymous letters and letters from women in French, Italian, and English may be burnt without being read.'

Two years before his death Sir Alexander brought an action, in which he was unsuccessful, against Sir William Cockburn of that Ilk, second baronet, claiming the fees which were payable to him as Heritable Usher. It seems that in 1690,† when his great-grandfather was forced to meet his creditors, the lands of Langton and the office of Heritable Usher, with the fees attached, fell into the hands of Sir James Cockburn of that Ilk, first baronet. In 1711, when Sir Alexander's grandfather succeeded to the title, he was served heir to Langton with the office of Usher; but the salary of £250 per annum and fees were claimed by the Cockburns of that Ilk as creditors, and apparently paid to them till the unfortunate Sir Alexander, the fourth baronet, raised the action.

In the manner already shown, JAMES COCKBURN, younger son of William Cockburn of Ayton, succeeded his cousin as sixth baronet. Moreover, he in due course became the father of the seventh, eighth, and ninth baronets. He was retoured heir on 3rd January 1749. From 1772 to 1784 he represented, in three successive Parliaments, Linlithgow Burghs—a part of the kingdom from which the family had long been alienated. Otherwise he does not seem to have been particularly active as a public man.

* *Scots Mag.*

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 5th May 1690.

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At a levee in June 1775, when he was probably more or less resident in England, attending to his parliamentary duties, he presented the Earl of Suffolk, a court official, with a notification that the baronets of Nova Scotia (of which, of course, he was one) were desirous of reverting to the custom of wearing the badge of their order at court, as ordained by Charles I. The initiative in this matter had been taken by the then Lord Lyon, who in the previous April had reminded the Scottish, or Nova Scotia, baronets that this ancient privilege had long ago fallen into disuse.* Meetings were held at the British Coffee House, Charing Cross, and at Fortune's Tavern in Edinburgh, and it was decided to petition for its revival. The King proving gracious, a number of the baronets appeared at court the following November wearing the insignia of the order suspended from an orange-silk ribbon†; and from the interest that Sir James Cockburn had previously taken in the movement we can well suppose that he was amongst them.

Little more is heard of Sir James, and he died at Hillingdon Heath in Berkshire on 26th July 1804, aged seventy-five. During his life he had seen his ancestral lands of Langton pass away from the family, the sale having taken place in 1757,‡ as the result of a predecessor's extravagance or misfortune. The property was acquired by Mr. David Gavin, who had made a large fortune in Holland. Some thirty years later—in 1793—his only daughter, Mary Turner Gavin, married the fourth Earl of Breadalbane; their eldest daughter, Lady Elizabeth Campbell, married in 1831 Sir John Pringle, fifth baronet of Stitchill; and their eldest daughter, Mary Gavin Pringle, who married the Hon. Robert Baillie Hamilton, was possessor of Langton until her death in April

* *Scots Mag.*

† *Gents. Mag.*

‡ See G. E. C. *Complete Baronetage*, vol. ii. p. 329, note 'b.'

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1912, when she was succeeded by her sister, Lady Harvey. On 31st March 1755 Sir James Cockburn married Mary, daughter of Henry Douglas, a merchant in London, but on 5th September 1766 he was left a widower, his wife having died 'at Bristol hot wells.*' 'I never heard of any person suffering such agonies as she did for seven months before it pleased God to release her,' wrote Lady Mary Coke; 'her torments were so great that she repeatedly begged of her husband, in the most earnest manner, to put an end to her life, saying she was sure it could be no sin.†' Five days later she was buried at Petersham Church,‡ near Richmond in Surrey—a long funeral journey in those days.

By Mary Douglas, Sir James Cockburn had a son Alexander, who died as a boy, and three daughters, Mary, Frances (both of whom died unmarried), and Harriet, who married in June 1794 James Nicholas Duntze, son of the first baronet and grandfather of the present Sir George Alexander Duntze. Their second son, Admiral Duntze, had, with other issue, a daughter, who married in 1860 Colonel H. C. Lyle of Cairnagariff, Co. Donegal; their eldest surviving daughter, Catharine Lyle, married in 1895 Mr. A. J. Palmer of Fairford Park, Gloucestershire.

Sir James Cockburn remained a widower till 10th July 1769, when he married Augusta Anne Ayscough, daughter of the Very Rev. Francis Ayscough, Dean of Bristol, and some time 'preceptor' or tutor to George III.§ This Lady Cockburn is particularly interesting from the fact that her portrait, with three of her children, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, is in the National Gallery, where it has found, let us hope, a permanent home after many vicissitudes. Painted in 1773, it was first exhibited in the Royal Aca-

* *Scots Mag.*

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Lady Mary Coke's Journal*, vol. i. pp. 47, 48.

§ *Scots Mag.*



LADY LOCKHART AND THE CHILDREN
Engraving by J. G. Thompson

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demy the following year,* and was afterwards engraved by C. Wilkin, and later on by Samuel W. Reynolds. Sir James Cockburn, it is said, was dissatisfied with the first print, and objected to its being published, whereupon Wilkin effaced Lady Cockburn's name and substituted 'Cornelia, Mother of the Gracchi.' Original copies of this engraving now fetch large sums of money.

The subsequent history of this picture is somewhat remarkable. It became the property of Sir James Cockburn, eldest son of the sixth baronet, who bequeathed it to his only daughter, Lady Hamilton, who, under the belief that it was her property absolutely, bequeathed it to the nation. Under this bequest it hung in the National Gallery for several years. Ultimately, however, it was found that Lady Hamilton had merely a life interest in this and other Cockburn portraits, and only by putting all the pictures up to sale could an equal division among the large number of beneficiaries, descendants in the female line, be arranged. The Reynolds picture was disposed of privately to the late Mr. Alfred Beit, the South African millionaire, who is reported to have paid the vast sum of £22,000 for a canvas which, in 1774, had cost £183, 15s.† Mr. Beit only enjoyed the possession of the picture for a few years, and on his death in July 1906 he gracefully bequeathed it back to the nation, whereby it once again adorns the walls of the gallery in Trafalgar Square.

By his second wife Sir James Cockburn had five sons, of whom the first three—James, George, and William—will be dealt with in due course as seventh, eighth, and ninth baronets, and the fourth, Alexander, as father of the tenth holder of the title, the famous Lord Chief Justice. The youngest son, Francis, entered the Army, and became colonel of the 95th Foot. He was knighted about 1830, when

* Graves and Cronin, *History of the Works of Sir Joshua Reynolds*. † *Ibid.*

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Governor of British Honduras, and in 1840 became Governor of the Bahamas. By his wife Alicia Sandys, daughter of the Rev. Richard Sandys by Lady Frances Bennet, daughter of the third Earl of Tankerville, he had no children. He died on 24th August 1868. Sir James Cockburn and Augusta Ayscough also had a daughter, Anne Augusta, who in 1807 married the Rev. Charles Hawkins, Canon of York. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins had two daughters, the elder of whom, Cecilia Mary, married in 1837 the Rev. John Baillie, Canon of York, great-great-grandson of the sixth Earl of Haddington, and is represented nowadays by a large number of descendants; while the younger, Georgiana Augusta, married in 1839 James Charles Yorke, great-grandson of the first Earl of Hardwicke, and had three sons and eight daughters.

SIR JAMES COCKBURN, seventh baronet, had little but the title and a long pedigree to which to succeed on his father's death in 1804. Born in 1770, he entered the Army, and his name as captain in the 2nd Dragoons is found in the Army Lists for 1795 and onwards. In 1801 he married Mariana, daughter of John, thirteenth Earl of Hereford, by whom he had an only daughter, Mariana Augusta. She married in 1834 Sir James J. Hamilton, who died without issue in January 1876, Lady Hamilton surviving until March 1892.

Sir James Cockburn was made an Under-Secretary of State for War and the Colonies (as the appointment was then designated) in 1806. The following year he became Governor of Curaçao, and in 1811 Governor of Bermuda. In 1831, by which time he had become Major-General, he was created K.C.H., and in 1835 G.C.H. He died in February 1852, his wife having predeceased him in 1847.

ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE COCKBURN, second surviving son of Sir James Cockburn, sixth baronet, in his old age succeeded



ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE COCKBURN, G.C.B.

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his brother as eighth holder of the title, which, however, he was not destined to enjoy for more than eighteen months.

Sir George had had an adventurous career. Having joined the Navy at an early age, and seen service under Hood and Nelson, he reached the rank of Admiral in 1812. The following year he was placed in command of a squadron in the war which had broken out between England and the United States, and to such an extent did he make himself dreaded that by the autumn the Americans were offering a reward of fifteen hundred dollars for his head.* In August 1814, after the capture of Washington, General Robert Ross, the Commander-in-Chief, wrote in his despatches to the Government at home:—

‘To Rear Admiral Cockburn, who suggested the attack on Washington and who accompanied the army, I confess the greatest obligations for his cordial cooperation and advice.’†

The following year, 1815, proved one of the greatest moments to the admiral. He was created K.C.B., and in the summer was directed to convey the fallen Emperor Napoleon to St. Helena in H.M.S. *Northumberland*.

In 1888 was published a little volume‡ of extracts from the diary kept by Sir George during the voyage, in which are given many interesting details of the ex-Emperor’s conduct. Sir George has been severely criticised in recent years for what has been regarded as an overbearing attitude towards Napoleon; but in treating the deposed monarch as a prisoner, and addressing him as General instead of Emperor, he was only carrying out the Government’s instructions as conveyed to him by Earl Bathurst. It was inevitable, considering their relationship, that he should give offence to Napoleon, who, of course, could not be allowed to maintain the independent and royal attitude which he

* *Gents. Mag.*, Nov. 1813. † *Scots Mag.*, p. 783. ‡ *Napoleon’s Last Voyage*.

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sometimes attempted to assume. This volume, however, is not a history of Napoleon, and it need only be added that Sir George transferred his captive from H.M.S. *Bellerophon* to H.M.S. *Northumberland* on 7th August 1815 off Berry Head, on the south coast of Devon. On the 10th the squadron set sail from near Falmouth, reaching St. Helena on 15th October, where for a time Sir George remained as Governor of the Island.

In 1818 he was created G.C.B., and at intervals between 1820 and 1846 he was Lord of the Admiralty and Member of Parliament. In August 1842, in his official capacity as a Lord of the Admiralty, Sir George was present at Woolwich when Queen Victoria started on her first journey to Scotland. Her Majesty had left Windsor 'by the railroad' for London, whence the party drove to Woolwich; and Her Majesty mentions that Sir George Cockburn gave her his arm, helping her into the barge from which she boarded her yacht, the *Royal George*.*

He married in 1809 his third cousin, Mary Cockburn, daughter of Thomas Cockburn of Jamaica,† who died in 1801. Her great-grandfather, Dr. James Cockburn, was son of Sir Archibald Cockburn, second baronet of Langton. By her Sir George had an only daughter, Augusta Harriet Mary, who in 1856 married Captain J. C. Hoseason, R.N., and died in 1869.

Sir George himself died on 19th August 1853, having only succeeded to the baronetcy in the previous year.

Like his predecessor and elder brother, SIR WILLIAM COCKBURN, Dean of York, third surviving son of Sir James Cockburn, sixth baronet, was an old man when he succeeded to the title as ninth baronet. He had been born in June 1773, and was therefore just eighty.

* *Journal of Queen Victoria*.

† See Cockburn's *In the West Indies*, p. 255.

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As the Rev. William Cockburn he married* on 20th December 1806 Elizabeth Peel, second daughter of Sir Robert Peel, first baronet, M.P. for Tamworth, and sister of the celebrated statesman. By her he had three sons: James Peel Cockburn, Robert Drayton Cockburn, and George Cockburn.

The eldest son, James Peel Cockburn, married his cousin Ellen, daughter of Robert Peel of Wallington Hall, Norfolk, and dying in December 1845, left two daughters: Elizabeth, married to the Rev. Frederick Fane of Moyles Court, and Augusta Ellen, married to Mr. H. F. L. Astley. Both of these daughters are now represented by a number of descendants, as shown in the pedigree.

On their mother's death in 1828 the sons came into a considerable amount of money, but the two younger lost many thousands by the failure of a bank. These latter are said† to have been somewhat rough sporting men, with much natural talent but little education. They at one time kept a pack of hounds at Hursley in Hampshire, and were well known in sporting circles. Both of them, however, died young and unmarried, within three months of one another—the elder in June 1850, aged forty-one, and the younger in the following September, aged thirty-seven.

Sir William, whose wife brought him some forty or fifty thousand pounds, seems† to have been addicted to speculations in land and church property, which led to great financial embarrassment. At one time he was prosecuted for simony—*i.e.* the buying and selling of churches or preferments at a profit. Possibly somewhat in disgrace, he exchanged with his brother-in-law, Mr. Hawkins, his living in Yorkshire for that of Kelston in Somerset, between Bath and Bristol, where he died in May 1858.

* *Scots Mag.*

† Communicated by a descendant.

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Sir William married, secondly, Emma, daughter of Colonel Pearse, by whom he left no issue.

Sir William's only married son having died during his father's lifetime without male issue, the title devolved on his nephew, Alexander James Edmund Cockburn. The new baronet's father, Alexander Cockburn, was the fourth son of Sir James Cockburn, sixth baronet, by his second wife. Entering the consular service, he held various foreign appointments, and was at one time Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Colombia. While Consul-General at Hamburg he married* on 12th December 1799 Yolande, daughter of the Vicomte de Vignier, of an old French family which had suffered great misfortunes in the Revolution. Mrs. Cockburn died in 1810, leaving one son, Alexander James Edmund, destined to the baronetcy and to judicial fame, and two daughters: Louisa, who married Signor Biasini and died at Milan in 1862, and Yolande, who in June 1850 married Baron Ferrari, major in the Italian army, but died four years later. Alexander Cockburn died at St. Heliers, Jersey, on 14th October 1852.

SIR ALEXANDER JAMES EDMUND COCKBURN, tenth baronet, was born in 1802. His early years were for the most part spent abroad, at the various consulates to which his father was appointed. As a result of this, and of the fact that he had a French mother, he became an admirable scholar in the French, German, and Italian languages. In 1822 he entered Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and in 1829 was called to the Bar, where he obtained a good practice and established a reputation in election petitions. Some twenty years after becoming a barrister he was elected Member of Parliament for Southampton, he was knighted in 1850, and in 1851 he

* *Scots Mag.*



SIR JOHN LUBBOCK, 1ST BARONET
BORN 1834, DIED 1913
LONDON, ENGLAND

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was appointed Attorney-General, an office which he held for five years.

On his uncle Sir William's death in 1858 he succeeded, as already stated, to the baronetcy of Langton, and in the following year, when Lord Campbell was given the Great Seal, Sir Alexander Cockburn was appointed Lord Chief Justice of England.

As Lord Chief Justice, Sir Alexander presided over many famous cases, one of the most remarkable being the notorious Tichborne trial in the early seventies.

Several of his legal contemporaries, or at any rate those who came in contact with him professionally, have left us interesting impressions of his character and a number of anecdotes in which he figures. Some quotations from Serjeant Ballantine's memoirs will not be out of place:—

‘Cockburn was one of those men who, like Erskine, although small in person, did not look so. No one would for a moment have thought him insignificant, and although his face was decidedly plain it had when smiling a peculiar charm. With ladies his manners were deferential, and if gossip was to be believed had been fully appreciated. As an Advocate he was equal to any one I ever heard at the Bar.’

It seems probable that Sir Alexander was the only Attorney-General who has ever been, even nominally, arrested in Piccadilly! Mr. Ballantine relates* that on one occasion (it must have been in the early ‘fifties’) he was returning home early one morning and saw a police constable struggling with a powerful and drunken woman. He tapped the officer lightly on the shoulder, saying: ‘Why do you not spring your rattle?’ (for assistance, it being before the days of whistles). The constable at once exclaimed: ‘I take you into custody for obstructing me in the execution of my duty.’ Mr. Bal-

* Vol. ii. p. 30.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

lantine continues: 'At that moment Sir Alexander Cockburn, who was returning from the House of Commons, appeared on the scene, and seeing as he thought a woman ill-used remonstrated with the officer, who said: "I arrest you also." "Arrest me!" exclaimed the astonished Attorney-General, "what for?" "Oh! for many things; you are well known to the Police!" Some people fortunately recognised us, and we were released.'

Another legal author* tells us that 'Cockburn was a little man with a wonderfully resonant voice and much judicial dignity. The well-known caricature of him by Frank Lockwood gave a better idea of his expressive and dominating features than any other likeness I have seen.'

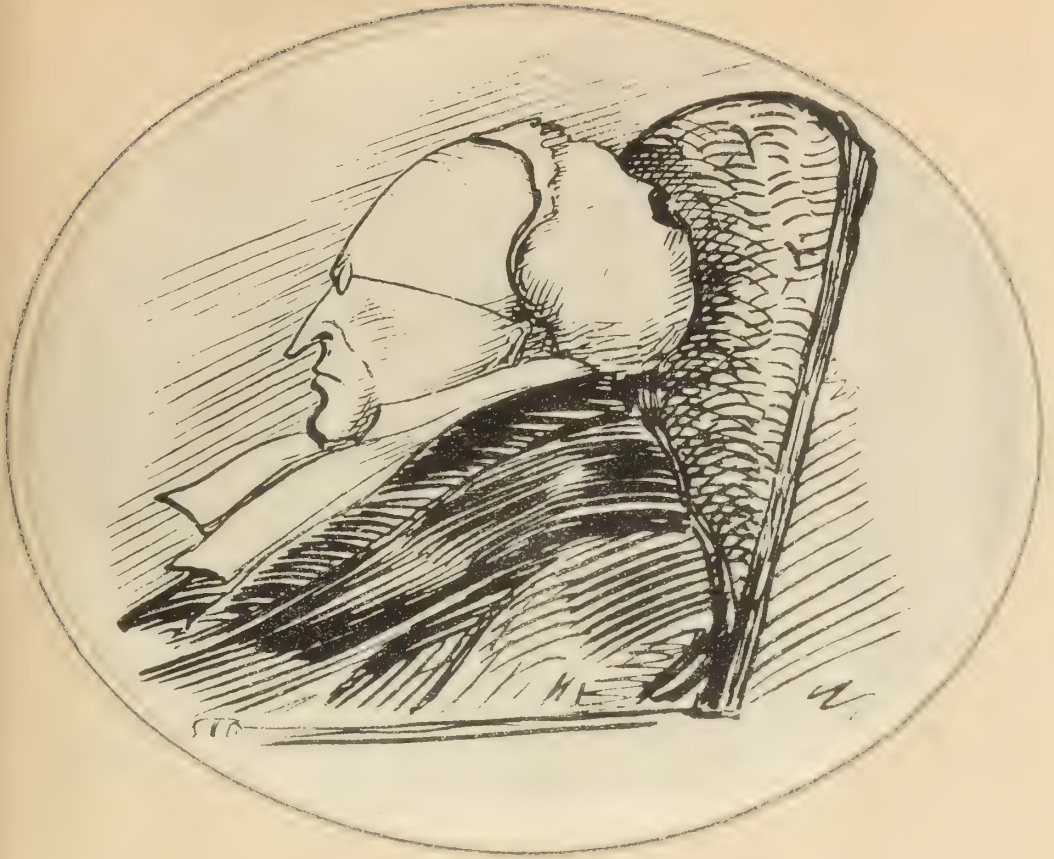
As an instance of an occasion on which his 'official dignity' was much upset, the following story may be quoted†:— At some assizes he was attending he gave orders that the windows of the court should be closed. The following morning, however, he arrived and found every window open. The inevitable inquiry brought an explanation from the culprit. 'As High Sheriff, your lordship, I consider it my duty to superintend the ventilation of this court, and I have therefore directed that the windows shall not be closed.' Cockburn was not impressed. 'As Lord Chief Justice,' he said, 'I consider it my duty to fine you £500 for disobedience.' And he actually did so!

In private life he was fond of society, an admirable host and raconteur, and very popular with all who knew him. Some of the stories concerning him are, perhaps, more adapted to the smoking-room than to a family history, but the following anecdote may bear repeating here, if only as an instance of his wit:—

At a certain trial an extremely pretty girl was called as a witness. The Lord Chief Justice was very particular about

* *Pie Powder*, 1911.

† *Pall Mall Gazette*, 1st Feb. 1911.



THE MAN IN THE HAT
BY J. H. B. [unclear]

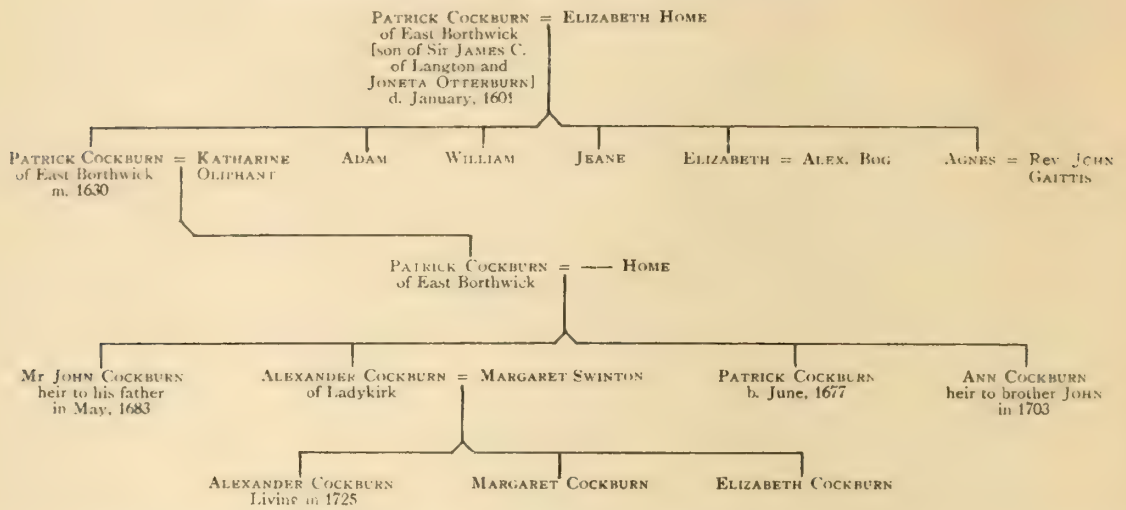
COCKBURNS OF LANGTON

her giving her full name and address. Of these he took note. So did the sheriff's officer! That evening they both arrived at the young lady's door simultaneously, whereupon Sir Alexander tapped the officer on the shoulder, remarking: 'No, no, no, Mr. Sheriff's Officer, judgment first, execution afterwards!'

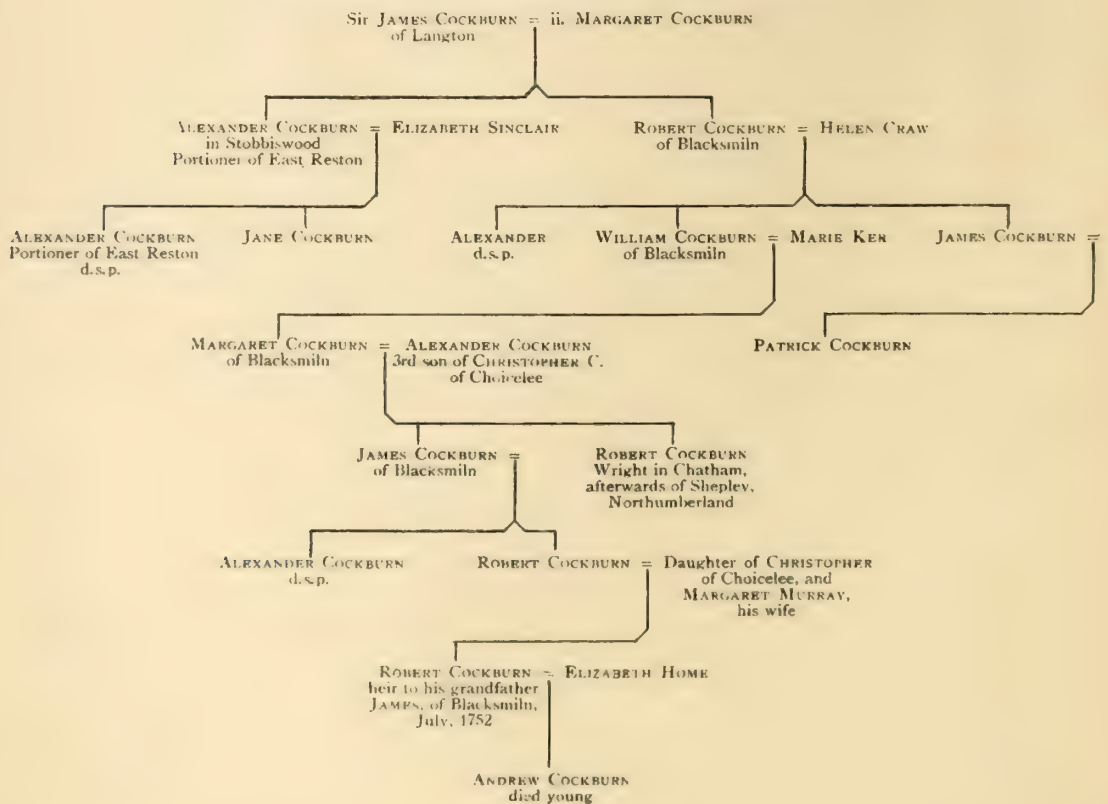
Sir Alexander's busy life was brought to a sudden close on 20th November 1880. He had been occupied all day as usual, and walked home to his house in Hertford Street, Mayfair, where he dined. Late at night, however, an attack of angina pectoris came on, and proved fatal in a very short time. Sir Alexander was never married, so that on his death a long line came to an end, and the baronetcy of Langton, created in 1627, has since been in abeyance.

From Sir William Cockburn who fell at Flodden, great-great-great-grandfather of the first baronet, several distinct families descended; but it seems impossible for any surviving representatives nowadays to prove their seniority seeing that so many obscure descendants may possibly have married, and may possibly have left issue—in these days, perhaps, in quite humble circumstances.

COCKBURNS OF EAST BORTHWICK.



COCKBURNS OF BLACKSMILN, &c.



COCKBURNS OF EAST BORTHWICK AND OF BLACKSMILN

ALTHOUGH these two families are quite uninteresting historically, they are deserving of separate notice from a genealogical point of view, on the ground that their progenitors were both grand-uncles of Sir William Cockburn, first baronet of Langton; and although the main lines of each family are long ago extinct, it may be that several junior members married and left descendants whom we have been unable to trace. Future genealogists of the family may, perhaps, find clues which start them on fresh voyages of discovery.

PATRICK COCKBURN, second surviving son of Sir James Cockburn of Langton and Joneta Otterburn,* obtained the lands of East Borthwick, close to Langton, in January 1584.† He was at one time Sheriff-Depute of Berwickshire, and tutor, or guardian, to his nephew, Sir William of Langton, during his minority. He married Elizabeth Home, a sister of John Home of Reston, by whom he had two sons and four daughters: Patrick, who succeeded; William, ‡ Jane, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Agnes. § Elizabeth and Agnes married respectively Alexander Bog or Boog of Burnhouses, near Duns, and John Gaitis, minister of Buncle, who along with some sixty others was killed in an explosion at Dunglas in August 1640.||

Dying in January 1601, the first Cockburn of East Borthwick was succeeded by his eldest son PATRICK, who was retoured heir to his father in November 1617. In 1630 he married Katharine, daughter of Sir William Oliphant of Newton, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, who

* See p. 43.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. v. No. 664.

‡ *Scott Deeds*, 7th July 1637.

§ *Hay Deeds*, 25th Nov. 1630.

|| *Hew Scott, Fasti*, vol. i. p. 407; *Balfour's Annals*, vol. ii. p. 397.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

died in April 1628. This Patrick had a most unpleasant brother-in-law in Sir James Oliphant, his wife's eldest brother. At one time he (Sir James Oliphant) was King's Advocate, and was raised to the Bench, but, as Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet expresses it, 'he was expelled therefrom for having shot his own gardener dead with a hackbut.*' Not even content with this, he some years later stabbed his mother with a sword, and for that reason fled to Ireland, where he died in great penury.†

The next laird was another PATRICK, but whether he was son or nephew of the last it seems impossible to determine. His wife was a Home, a relative, perhaps sister, of David Home, Lord Crossrigg. By her he had three sons: John, Alexander, and Patrick, and a daughter, Ann. Of Patrick nothing is known but that he was baptised at Duns in June 1677.‡ Ann was in May 1703 served heir general to her brother John.

Alexander, the second son, married Margaret, daughter of David Swinton of Lochtoun, by whom he had with two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth (born October 1695),§ a son Alexander, who in 1725 was served heir to his two uncles, James Swinton and George Swinton.

JOHN COCKBURN, the eldest son of this last Patrick, was in May 1683 served heir of provision to his father; and as his sister Ann Cockburn was served his heir twenty years later, it is obvious that the main male line became extinct at his death.

The BLACKSMILN family was founded by ROBERT COCKBURN, a younger son of Sir James of Langton by his second

* *Staggering State of the Scots Statesmen*, p. 139.

‡ *Duns Reg. Bapt.*

† *Ibid.*, p. 140.

§ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

COCKBURNS OF BLACKSMILN

wife Margaret Cockburn. He is first mentioned as being 'of Blacksmiln' in the will, confirmed in July 1599,* of his elder brother Alexander 'in Stobbiswood,' and portioner of East Reston. This Alexander Cockburn had married one Elizabeth Sinclair, by whom he had a son Alexander, to whom a portion of the lands of East Reston were granted under the Great Seal; whom failing, to his uncle, Robert of Blacksmiln.†

Like several others of the family, Robert was for a time Sheriff-Depute of Berwickshire. He died in 1632.‡

Robert Cockburn married Helen Craw in 1618,§ by whom he had Alexander,|| who died in his father's lifetime; William, who succeeded; James, and John. James succeeded to the 'three husbandlands' of East Reston, which had come to his father on the death of Alexander, the only son of Alexander and Elizabeth Sinclair mentioned above. To John only one reference has been found.¶

WILLIAM COCKBURN had sasine of the lands of Blacksmiln as his father's heir in January 1634; but he did not live to enjoy possession long, for he died in 1637.** By his wife Marie Ker †† he had an only daughter, Margaret, who married her kinsman, Alexander Cockburn, third son of Christopher of Choicelee and Agnes Trotter (his second wife).

ALEXANDER COCKBURN and Margareth had sasine of Blacksmiln in August 1671,‡‡ and as will be seen from the pedigree, three more generations continued the line till about 1773, when Robert Cockburn (great-grandson of this Alex-

* *Edin. Wills.*

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. vi. No. 876.

‡ *Edin. Tests.*

§ *Gibson Deeds*, 7th Oct. 1632, vol. cccclvi.

|| *Laing Charters*, No. 2104.

¶ *Hay Deeds*, No. 116, vol. cccclxxxii.

** *Edin. Tests*, 1637.

†† *Hay Deeds*, Nos. 116, 234; *Edin. Reg. Marr.*, Aug. 1633.

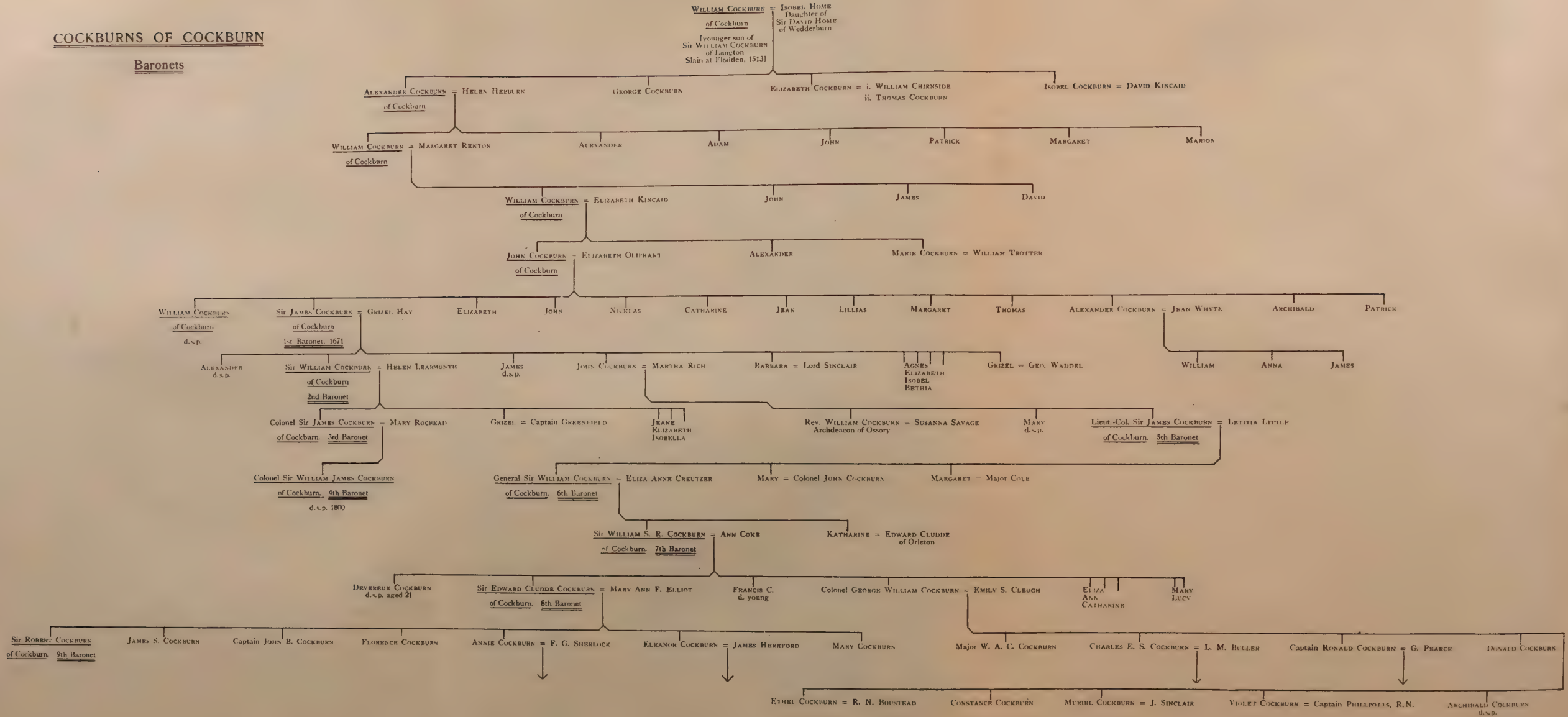
‡‡ *Sasines*, Berwick, vol. ii. fol. 330.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

ander) and Elizabeth Home, his wife, parted with the lands of his forbears. They had an only son, Andrew, who had died young; and thus another line of the Cockburns came to an end.

COCKBURNS OF COCKBURN

Baronets



COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

AN EXPLANATION

IN writing these memoirs of the Cockburns of that Ilk I think it necessary to explain why many statements which appear in the following pages differ from those to be found in various genealogical works of reference, such as Burke (of bygone days), Foster, Playfair, Betham, etc.

The particulars contained in these old publications were never given by the heads of the family, but appear to have been compiled by the various editors from a confused mass of information, at a time when the records of the kingdom were not so accessible as they are at the present day. Errors, therefore, were almost inevitable.

The climax was reached by the publication of Mr. Hood's *House of Cockburn*, which contained so many false assertions and misquotations of records that nothing remained but to have an exhaustive survey made from all procurable sources—an undertaking which was initiated by my late father, Sir Edward Cockburn, and since his death has been continued and brought to a successful conclusion.

Reference to the *House of Cockburn* will show that one of the author's aims was to prove that a baronetcy had never been conferred on any of my ancestors, and from a cursory examination of the book it would almost seem as if his efforts had been successful. Further investigation has, however, proved him to have been wrong; and his error was brought home to him only a few days after the publication of the book by having the very terms of the patent read out to him when he was on his death-bed!

About eleven years after his death the following statement was published as an additional leaf to be inserted in copies of the *House of Cockburn*, and it deserves reproduction in full. The subscriber, the Rev. Walter Macleod, had been of assistance to Mr. Hood in transcribing records, and, I should add, has been of considerable help to my late father and to myself.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

‘*The House of Cockburn of That Ilk and the Cadets thereof* was published in November, 1888. It was reviewed a few days after in the *Scotsman* newspaper. On the same, or next, day the author wrote me a note desiring me to call upon him, which I did without delay. He was at this time labouring under a severe illness, which shortly after proved fatal. Yet he was not confined to bed, and was quite able to converse freely. He informed me that a charter chest had just been sent to him containing the Cockburn papers, the owner being a gentleman of the name of Rutherford, who was introduced to him by Mr. Burnet, the Lyon King of Arms; and that he had sent for me in order to have the papers examined. Before the completion of his book, he had often expressed to me his earnest desire to discover the Cockburn family papers; and now he was very eager to know the contents of the box thus happily brought to hand. After reading to him the titles of several of the writs, his attention was turned to a document in parchment. On taking up this we found it was a patent under the Great Seal, granting a baronetcy to James Cockburn of That Ilk. The date was 1672 or thereabout, as I did not make a note at the time, because Mr. Hood became somewhat agitated and distressed; and on hearing the terms of the patent read out a second time, he said it proved that he was in error in what he had published about that family. He earnestly expressed the wish that he had not inserted the Supplementary Chapter in the Cockburn book, and even spoke of withdrawing it. To allay his distress I reminded him that he had made efforts to find the patent, but had failed, and that it was not his fault that it was not found sooner. Nevertheless, he continued to be much grieved on account of the error. I did not again see him alive, as the end came not many days after.

‘The whole matter deeply impressed me; but as I had not studied the details of the family history it did not occur to me that any extant members of the Cockburn

COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

family were wronged by the chapter referred to, until Sir Edward Cockburn, Baronet, called upon me some years later, and pointed out how that chapter affected his position. After some days' consideration it seemed to me my bounden duty to tell him what I knew, as stated above, and I did so, and I hereby affirm that the statement is true.

WALTER MACLEOD.

'112 THIRLESTANE ROAD,
'EDINBURGH, 29th August, 1899.'

(Signed) ROBERT COCKBURN.

The first Cockburn of that Ilk was the second son and namesake of Sir William Cockburn of Langton, who fell at Flodden, by his wife Anna Home; and from his day until the end of the seventeenth century his descendants owned the lands from which, in the unrecorded past, his forbears had taken their name. Nor is the line yet broken, though the lands have so long been lost to it.

For a time, before he had acquired Cockburn, the younger William had a trustee's interest in the lands which he had known from childhood. It will be remembered that after the fatal battle, where not only Sir William but his eldest son Alexander was also slain, Langton passed to the late laird's grandson James. The new head of the house being but a lad, a guardian had to be found for him; and the choice naturally fell upon his uncle.*

* *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Earl of Home), p. 161.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

There is no reason to suppose that William Cockburn failed in this trust; but one of the earliest references to him shows him concerned in doings of a lawless nature—a position not uncommon, nor necessarily held disgraceful, in those turbulent days. A certain French knight, Sir Antony Darcy, had been appointed Warden of the East Borders. This gave great offence to the Scottish lords, who naturally felt jealous of the appointment of a foreigner to an office of such distinction; and the fact that he was given possession of Home Castle* after Lord Home had been treacherously put to death doubtless rendered him even more odious. On 12th October 1517, therefore, David Home of Wedderburn (whose sister married William Cockburn) with various others, including Cockburn himself, attacked Darcy near Langton. The Frenchman fled, but was overtaken and slain at Broomhouse by the laird of Wedderburn, who carried his head in triumph through Duns, and fixed it on the battlements of Home Castle.† William Cockburn was arraigned for his ‘art and part of the treasonable slaughter,’ but had remission in July 1522.‡

In 1527 William Cockburn purchased from David, Earl of Crawford, the lands of Cockburn, which had belonged to the Lindsays for two hundred years and more, and to the Dunbars before them. The earl’s charter was dated 12th April, and three days later the King confirmed it.§ Five years later William Cockburn, now ‘of that Ilk,’ added to his property by purchasing from Sir Alexander Kirkpatrick of Kirkmichael the neighbouring lands of Lochbirgeam, or Lochtoun||—a place which afterwards changed hands from time to time amongst other members of the family.

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 143.

† *New Statist. Acc. Berwick*, pp. 269, etc., etc.

‡ Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. pt. i. p. 235.

§ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 447.

|| *Ibid.*, No. 1204.

COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

William Cockburn was alive in 1545,* but neither the date of his death nor that at which he married Isobel Home, daughter of Sir David Home of Wedderburn, has been discovered. The latter event certainly occurred before the middle of 1526, for when Cockburn was purchased in the following April, Alexander, the eldest son of the match, was already in the world.† Nor, since he was himself married in 1541, is it probable that he had only just arrived there in 1527. Moreover, as far back as 1506 Isobel Home had been contracted to John Swinton of that Ilk, who subsequently married her sister,‡ and it seems unlikely that she should have waited another twenty years for her wedding. It is at least probable that Cockburn was already a married man when he helped in the slaying of Darcy the Frenchman; for he would more readily give his support to his brother-in-law than to another in so hazardous a business.

By Isobel Home, William Cockburn had two sons and two daughters: Alexander, his heir, and George; Elizabeth and Isobel. Elizabeth§ was married, first, to William Chirside; secondly, to Thomas Cockburn, son of Sir James Cockburn of Langton. Isobel became the wife of David Kincaid.||

ALEXANDER COCKBURN, who succeeded his father, lived to a good age, dying in March 1582.¶ But for a man of his position, and a dweller in the Merse in very stirring times, his record is singularly blank. He married Helen, daughter of Sir Patrick Hepburn of Wauchton, who seems to have been identical with the Sir Patrick Hepburn of Bolton who in July 1545 granted to William Cockburn and his wife the lands of East Craig.** The marriage contract,†† which is dated Feb-

* *Laing Charters*, No. 499.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 447.

‡ *Scots Peerage* (ed. Balfour Paul), vol. iii. pp. 281, 282.

§ *Edin. Tests*.

|| *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. xxi. fol. 38.

¶ *Edin. Tests*, 1583.

** *Laing Charters*, No. 499.

†† Family papers in possession of J. H. Rutherford.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

ruary 1541, and is still in existence, binds Alexander to 'compleit and solemnize the band of matrimonie betwist this and the fest of Whitsunday next to cum'—an obligation which he doubtless performed. The children of this marriage, named in the wills of both their parents,* were William, the heir; Alexander, Patrick, Margaret, and Marion. There were also two other sons, Adam and John, both of whom occur in 1588 as brothers of the then Cockburn of that Ilk.† John is mentioned again in 1602,‡ but nothing further is heard either of him or of Adam. Helen Hepburn survived her husband some five years, dying in August 1587.§ In her will she twice mentions her deceased sister, 'Jane Lady Polwarth.' This must be a clerical error, for her sister's name was undoubtedly Elizabeth.

WILLIAM COCKBURN succeeded to Cockburn and died before May 1602.|| In 1574 he married Margaret Raynton (or Renton), daughter of John Renton of Billie, in the parish of Coldingham.¶ This John Renton had been thrice married: first, to one Katharine Lawson; secondly, to Jean Cockburn (who may possibly have been a daughter of Alexander Cockburn, younger of Langton, as stated in the *House of Cockburn*); and thirdly, to Alison Heriot, widow of William Hoppringle of Torwoodlee; by all of whom he had issue.**

About the time of his marriage his father handed over to him the estate of Lochtoun,†† and in August 1583 he was also served heir to his father in the lands of Maysheill, in the constabulary of Haddington,‡‡ which may have been brought to the family by his mother Helen Hepburn.

* *Edin. Tests*, 1583, 1589.

† *Reg. P. C.*, vol. iv. p. 272.

‡ *Will of Pat. C. of E. Borthwick*, 1602.

§ *Edin. Tests*, 1589.

|| *Reg. P. C.*, vol. vii. p. 417.

¶ Marr. contract, family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

** *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Milne Home), pp. 187, 188, 190.

†† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 2317.

‡‡ *Laing Charters*, No. 1066.

COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

By Margaret Renton, William Cockburn had four sons: William, his heir; John, James, and David. These young men seem to have been of a quarrelsome disposition. In 1601 William, John, and David were before the Privy Council, because while 'playing at the fute-ball at Lochtoun' with James Davidson, called of Birnerig, and James Davidson in Nodday, they 'fell into contention and contravarsie, ilk an with utheris and shot pistollets and hacquebutts.'* Of more note was a later affray between these brothers and their neighbours and relatives, the Homes of Wedderburn. The affair had its origin in a difference of opinion as to the positions of the respective family pews in Duns Kirk. Neither yielding to argument, each side separately decided that the matter must be settled by force of arms. The result was the crossing of swords in the sacred building during sermon time on Sunday, 14th October 1610. In this case also the Privy Council interfered. On 6th November Sir George Home of Wedderburn and others of his name were cautioned in five thousand merks each to keep the King's peace, and not to harm or molest William Cockburn of that Ilk, his brothers, tenants, or servants. At the same time Sir William Cockburn of Langton went security in three thousand merks that the Cockburn brothers, William, John, James, and David, would not interfere with the Homes.†

On 13th December the matter was brought more fully before the Council, and from the charges which each side brought against the other one gets a vivid picture of the occurrence. Cockburn of that Ilk and his brother John alleged that on 13th October 1610 Sir George Home of Wedderburn, accompanied by David Home, his son, Patrick Home, his brother, Mr. Harie Stirling, servitor to Sir George, Thomas Home, Thomas Symson, servitor to David Home

* *Reg. P. C.*, vol. vi. p. 262.

† *Ibid.*, vol. ix. p. 663.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

of Wedderburn, George Home of Cramcruik, David Neisbit in Tynninghame Mill, and Sir George Home of Manderstoun, 'with convocation of the lieges, all armed with swords, gauntlets, plait sleeves, secrets, lances, axes and other weapons, came to the kirk of Duns and cut in small pieces the said William's desk and loft erected by him in the said kirk. Again, on 14 October, being Sunday, the said persons came armed in hostile manner to the said kirk, and planted themselves "in battell array" round it, when, without respect to the time or place, the said Laird of Mandirstoun, David Home, son of the said Laird of Weddirburne, and Harie Stirling, his servant, as commissioners from the other persons foresaid, came to the said William as he was sitting in his said desk, upbraided him and compelled him for fear of his life to rise out of his said seat. Thereafter, while the minister of the said kirk was preaching in the pulpit to the parishioners then assembled, all the persons foresaid, having entered the kirk, pursued the complainers for their lives with drawn swords, the said David Home striking John Cockburn on the face with a wand [elsewhere it is said that he 'chop-pit and strak the said Johnne Cokburne with a rod upon the heid as he was sitting down in the said Laird of Cokburne's seat'] and the Laird of Mandirstoun giving him a deadly stroke on the head with a drawn sword.' Sir George Home of Wedderburn on his side complained that the Cockburns had cut down the Home seat and erected their own in its place, and on Sunday, 'to the number of forty persons, all armed, came in a hostile manner to the said kirk and without respect to the Lord's Sabbath and to the House of God, "in the verie tyme of divyne service with drawin swerdis in their handis violentlie enterit in the said Kirk" of set purpose to bereave the complainer of his life.' The Lords of the Council found that David Home was responsible for the tumult in the church, and committed him 'to ward in the castle of

COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

Edinburgh'; and as William and John Cockburn had done wrong in cutting down the Homes' seat, they, too, were ordered to the castle.* Their imprisonment, however, was not of long duration. On 8th January 1611, after submitting their quarrel to the Council, they heartily embraced and promised to keep the peace. The original *casus belli*, the church pews, were to be set up in their old places. And all ended happily.†

Almost all that there is to tell of WILLIAM COCKBURN of Cockburn, eldest son of William Cockburn and Margaret Renton, is contained in the foregoing relation. He was described as of that Ilk in June 1601, at the time of the football match, Cockburn *v.* Davidson; but as his father had made the property over to him on his marriage in 1596, this is not conclusive evidence that the elder William was already dead, though he undoubtedly was so by the following May. In November 1608 William, the son, was retoured heir to the lands of Maysheill.‡ While on the topic of property, it may be noted that in 1625 he sold Lochtoun to his kinsman, Christopher Cockburn, younger son of James Cockburn of Choicelee and Marion Douglas.§ This was one of several transactions, within the family, of which Lochtoun was the subject.

In May 1596 William Cockburn married Elizabeth Kincaid, daughter of John Kincaid of Warriston, deceased, and Jeane Ramsay, his spouse. On this occasion, as already mentioned, his father presented him with the estate of Cockburn, including the 'fortalice, manor-place, mills, granaries, fishings, meadows, etc.'|| Four years later his wife's brother, John Kincaid of Warriston, was barbarously murdered at the instance of his wife Jean Livingstone by Robert Weir, a manservant, who was broken on the wheel—a rare penalty in

* *Reg. P. C.*, vol. ix. pp. 100-2.

† *Ibid.*, p. 114.

‡ *Berwick Retours.*

§ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. viii. No. 811.

|| *Ibid.*, vol. vii. No. 325.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Scotland—for his pains. Lady Warriston was also brought to justice. She was beheaded; while two female servants, her confederates, were burned at the stake. Before her death Lady Warriston made an edifying repentance, an account of which, by the clergyman who witnessed it, has been preserved.* She was a great beauty. Says the ballad which celebrates the tragedy:—

‘ She has twa well made feet,
Far better is her hand;
She’s jimp about the middle
As ony willy wand.’

The marriage of William Cockburn and Elizabeth Kincaid was productive of two sons, John and Alexander,† and a daughter Marie, who married William Trotter, brother to George Trotter of Prentonan.

The next laird, JOHN COCKBURN, also received Cockburn from his father’s hands on his marriage in October 1626 with Elizabeth Oliphant.‡ He owned the property for some thirty years. His wife was the daughter of Sir William Oliphant of Newton, the King’s Advocate. It will be seen in the account of the Cockburns of East Borthwick that in 1630 Patrick, the second laird of that property, married Katharine, another daughter of Sir William Oliphant, whose eldest son, Sir James Oliphant, brought such distress to his family.§

John Cockburn and his wife were blessed with a very large family, seven sons and seven daughters in all, but, mercifully perhaps, a good many of them seem to have died young. With the exception of William, the eldest, and Patrick, the

* Edited, with the record of Weir’s trial, by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe in 1827. The account of Lady Warriston’s trial is lost. Her husband had ill-treated her.

† *Acts and Decrees*, vol. cccxciii. fol. 283.

‡ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. viii. No. 1283.

§ See p. 74 and Scot’s *Staggering State of the Scots Statesmen*.

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youngest, all their names are to be found in the register of baptisms in Duns. The full list is as follows :—

William, the heir, of whom hereafter.

James, baptised 7th November 1628. He, who subsequently succeeded to the estates and was created a baronet, will also be dealt with presently.

Elizabeth, 17th January 1630.

Margaret, 18th February 1631.

John, 13th April 1632.

Nicklas (a daughter), 29th April 1633.

Catharine, 15th July 1634.

Thomas, 24th September 1635. He was in February 1653 apprenticed to Patrick Nicholl, a merchant in Edinburgh.*

Jeane, 27th July 1637.

Anna, 4th October 1638.

Lillias, 25th May 1640.

Alexander, 12th August 1641. He became an apothecary in Duns, and, marrying Jean Whyte, had issue by her: William, baptised 4th July 1682†; Anna, December 1684†; and James, December 1687.†

Archibald, 14th July 1644.

Patrick, mentioned in his father's will.

From a deed drawn up in 1652,‡ in which the surviving members of the family are mentioned, the names of Elizabeth, John, Nicklas, Catharine, Jeane, and Lillias are omitted. It may be assumed, therefore, that all these were dead at that date.

The father of this large family must himself have died about 1656, for in November of that year WILLIAM COCKBURN, his eldest son, was served his heir in the lands and

* *Prentice Roll* (Scot. Rec. Soc.).

† *Duns Reg. Bapt.*

‡ *Dornie Deeds*, vol. cccclxxxvii., 25th Jan. 1652.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

barony of Cockburn.* The new laird's tenure, however, was of short duration, for within a few months he disposed of the property to his next brother, James.† Why he should have done so is not clear. He may have been in financial straits, or he may have been in bad health, for he died five years later, and was buried in Old Greyfriars kirkyard on 15th March 1663.‡

With JAMES COCKBURN the Cockburns of that Ilk at last rise to distinction. Born in 1628, John Cockburn's second son was in September 1647, being then in his nineteenth year, apprenticed to Patrick Nicholl, the Edinburgh merchant to whom his brother Thomas was afterwards bound.§ His term was for five years, but he did not stay with his master so long. A martial spirit stirred in him, and just four years after the signing of his indentures he was following Charles II. to the fateful field of Worcester, where, as it seemed for a time, all hopes for the restoration of royalty were destroyed. Though he fought on the losing side, young Cockburn's conduct that day laid the foundations of the future importance of his house. He had to wait some twenty years for his reward, however; for near a decade was to pass before the King should come by his own, and Charles was ever a tardy payer of his debts.

After Worcester, James Cockburn seems to have returned to Edinburgh, where he perhaps resumed his interrupted apprenticeship. He at any rate became a merchant, prospered sufficiently to buy the family property from his elder brother, and was made a 'burgess and guild-brother' of Edinburgh in March 1658.||

* *Inquis. Spec. Berwick*, xxiv. 74.

† *Gen. Reg. Sas.*, lib. xii. fol. 313; *Brown Deeds*, Feb.-June 1657.

‡ *Greyfriars Reg.*

§ *Prentice Roll of Edinburgh.*

|| *Guild Roll of Edinburgh.*



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COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

Thirteen years later King Charles II. created him a baronet. The patent is, of course, in Latin, but the following translation of the preamble is interesting as giving the reason of the bestowal of the honour:—

‘... Know that we having taken into consideration the fidelity and steady affection of our well-beloved James Cockburn of that Ilk towards our Royal Person, Service and Government of which when yet a young man he gave proof, as when in the year of our Lord 1651 at the Battle of Worcester he fought submissively and courageously under our Standard, and having called to remembrance the celebrated exploits performed for us and our illustrious ancestors by the said James and his predecessors, wishing to encourage his fidelity. . .’

and so on.

In 1676 Sir James was made lieutenant-colonel of the Militia regiment of Foot raised in Berwickshire,* of which his neighbour, Sir Archibald of Langton, was colonel. The friendship which existed between these houses was, however, soon to be broken, and for many a long day the rupture was complete. The root of the trouble was money, or the lack thereof. Towards 1688, owing to his extravagance in improving Langton, Sir Archibald became deeply involved in debt. Sir James, with more generosity than prudence, went to his chief's assistance, with the result that his affairs also became hopelessly entangled. A quarrel between the two baronets was not the worst effect of this disaster. Sir James could no longer afford to keep Cockburn, and in 1696 the estate was put up to sale by a judicial roup. The first purchaser was another of the name, James Cockburn, the well-known goldsmith of Edinburgh.† But the property only remained in his family for fourteen years, when it was sold

* Commissions in family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

† See the family of Kirklands of Bolton.

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by William Cockburn, the goldsmith's son and heir, to Sir Robert Sinclair of Stevenson.* Thus were the Cockburns and the lands of Cockburn finally separated.

Though the acres of his forbears were lost, Sir James still had a town house in Edinburgh (of the value of £12,000 Scots, his son Sir William says),† and there he died 'of weakness and infirmities of old age' on 1st January 1704, being buried on 4th January in Old Greyfriars kirkyard 'eight double paces South of Sir George Mackenzie's tomb.'

In January 1658 Sir James Cockburn had married Grizel Hay,‡ a daughter of Hay of Barra, descended from the Hays of Linplum; by whom he had a large family,§ four sons and ten daughters, some of whom, however, died young. They were:—

Alexander, born in December 1658, died in infancy.

William, born in September 1662, second baronet.

James, born in September 1668, died in 1686.

John, born in April 1675, died at Kilkenny in 1758; of whom hereafter.

Barbara, born in July 1660, married to Lord Sinclair on 30th December 1680.||

Agnes, born in June 1670.

Elizabeth, born in February 1672, died at Shank (Borthwick) in 1731.

Grizel, born in January 1674, married in September 1734 to George Waddel, son of Dr. Richard Waddel, deceased, Archdeacon of St. Andrews.¶

Isobel, born in July 1678, died in 1739.**

Bethia, born in August 1681, died in 1731.††

* *Berwick Sasines*, vol. VIII. pt. i. fol. 113.

† Family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

‡ Family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

§ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

|| *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

¶ Marriage contract dated at Cockpen, family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

** *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

†† *Ibid.*

COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

In addition to these, four other daughters were born, but died young.

SIR WILLIAM COCKBURN, second baronet, styled of that Ilk, but actually landless, succeeded to the title in 1704. He had been educated at St. Andrews University, and was admitted advocate in November 1686.

Some particulars of the early years of his manhood have been preserved in a manuscript account of the financial dealings between his father and the house of Langton, which he wrote in 1741.*

Before the final catastrophe it seems that William Cockburn was on excellent terms with Archibald Cockburn, younger of Langton, and the two families 'being in these afflicting circumstances

'Mr. Cockburn and myself proposed to ourselves going abroad . . . and accordingly on 5 March 1690 we both set out for Ireland, Mr. Cockburn via the Highlands and I via London, Paris and Brest. We both met in Ireland but the misfortunes of that Prince we went to serve soon parted us again. Mr. Cockburn was made a prisoner by an English Yaught [*sic*] and carried to London and I was detained in Ireland till March 1691.'

Here Sir William evidently refers to the battle of the Boyne, where James II. was defeated by William of Orange in July 1690. 'The Prince we went to serve' is, of course, King James. Twenty-five years later his sympathies were still with the Stuarts, and he took a part in Mar's fruitless rising.

'In 1715 I went again to my travels in the course of which I met with a misfortune well enough known to all my acquaintances and was detained in London from Nov. 1715 till Aug. 1717.'

* Family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

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This is indeed guarded expression, but it must be remembered that in 1741, when it was written, Scotland was seething with unrest—prelude to the '45—the Whig ministry was consequently suspicious, and one who was or had been tainted with Jacobitism had need to tread warily. In his old age Sir William had learned caution. Close on eighty, he had long lost the taste for the inside of an English prison.

The Scot of the present day is universally credited with being 'canny' in his behaviour, cautious in his dealings. It seems possible that this gift has been inherited from many generations of forbears, who found it absolutely necessary to act with caution in the innumerable intrigues, Border troubles, wars with England, revolutions, and insurrections which hindered progress north of the Tweed.

After his return from his enforced sojourn in London, Sir William apparently thought it time to think of settling down. He was fifty-five years of age, and still a bachelor. The fact of having to provide for five unmarried sisters doubtless prevented him from entering lightly into matrimony. In 1718, however, he took the plunge,* the lady of his choice being Helen Learmonth, whose father, Mark Learmonth, an advocate, had died in 1713. By her he had one son, James, his successor in the title, and four daughters, Grizel, Jeane, Elizabeth, and Isabella. Only one of these daughters seems to have married: in June 1747 Grizel, the eldest of them, became the wife of Captain John Greenfield, by whom she left issue.

In his latter years Sir William lived at Dalkeith. From the fact that the marriage contract of his sister Grizel Cockburn (Mrs. Waddel) was dated from Cockpen, and that a year or so later it was he who communicated to the irate Robert Dundas of Arniston the intended marriage of his sister Martha Dundas to Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen,†

* Family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

† See Cockburns of Cockpen.

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it would seem that he was on very friendly terms with that branch of the family.

He died at Dalkeith in January 1751, at an extreme old age, and was buried on 11th January in Old Greyfriars kirk-yard, Edinburgh, 'three double paces east the plane tree near Mackenzie's tomb.'

SIR JAMES COCKBURN, who, as Sir William's only son, succeeded as third baronet, had in 1747 been an ensign in the forty-second regiment, the Black Watch. Some time in the next ten years he was transferred to the forty-eighth, with whom he served under Wolfe at Quebec in 1759, and afterwards at Montreal and in Martinique.* In 1775 he was one of the Scottish baronets to whom a circular was addressed by the Lord Lyon with reference to their claim to wear at court the badge of baronets of Nova Scotia, suspended by an orange-coloured ribbon round the neck. This subject is referred to on another page.

In 1772 he was quartered in Ireland, and there at the house of his cousin, the Rev. William Cockburn, Archdeacon of Ossory, he met his kinsman, Sir William Cockburn of Ryslaw. This meeting was the occasion of the search through family papers, of which details are given in the history of the Ryslaw branch.

Sir James died at Bandon in Ireland on 13th March 1780.†

On 8th April 1764 he married Mary, third daughter of the late Robert Rothead of Masterton, a property which marched with Cockpen and had been acquired by Archibald Cockburn, laird of that estate. By her he had an only son, William James, who succeeded as fourth baronet.

Sir James was alleged to have married, secondly, one Phœbe Sharman, by whom he had three sons: James, George, and Robert. No record of the marriage has been found, and

* Family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

† *Scots Mag.*

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despite the fact that in her will, dated 28th January and proved 12th June 1798, she described herself as Dame Phœbe Cockburn, widow of Sir James, and that she was accepted by his family as such, there is every reason to suppose that she had no right to any such description. After the death of Sir William James Cockburn, fourth baronet, the title was assumed by her own son James; but he was never socially recognised, and died in poverty, without issue, in Pratt Street, Lambeth, in 1841. There is in existence a letter, dated March 1830, from Sir James Cockburn of Langton to General Sir William Cockburn of Cockburn, in which he alludes to the '*soi-disant* Sir James' and his illegitimacy. The letter finishes: 'I have no doubt the facts of his birth are as stated; I have long and always heard them so detailed, and quite uncontrovertible.—Believe me always, my dear Sir William, your affec^{te}. cousin, JAMES COCKBURN.'*

Of the two remaining sons of Phœbe Sharman, George committed suicide in October 1800, and Robert, the youngest, died at Newry three months earlier, both being unmarried.

SIR WILLIAM JAMES COCKBURN succeeded his father as fourth baronet in 1780. He was educated at Glasgow University, and subsequently entered the Army, being first appointed ensign in the twenty-sixth regiment, and in 1783 transferred to the 1st Royals (Royal Scots), in which he became adjutant in May 1787, captain in 1791, and major in 1795.

His calling took him to the West Indies, where, judging from letters and papers which record his services, he did good work. While in Jamaica he came across his kinsmen who were settled there,† and during some indisposition

* Family papers.

† See Cockburns in Jamaica.



Portrait of a man in military uniform, possibly a general or officer, wearing a sash and a ruffled cravat.

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seems to have been cared for by them. In 1790 he wrote to his aunt, Miss Isabella Cockburn, asking who they were:—

‘ . . . I know well who they are [she replies]; I remember them all children here. They are sort of natives in Jamaica; their father was a Physician and brought them over here and when they got their education they went back to your Island. . . .’*

A few months later she writes:—

‘ I am glad Mr. Cockburn has been back to see you; I hope next letter to hear you are gone to the mountains to get a little air breath; they say it is a charming place, Mr. Cockburn’s estate and fine gardens about it.’

Again she writes:—

‘ I was happie to find you had been up again at the mountains; these little excursions will do you much good. . . . I dare say these Cockburns are so good people that I don’t believe they have a drop of Langton blood in them; I dare say they are nearer to us; no vanity here.’

Other allusions in these letters to the Cockburns of Langton show that the old lady had a very hearty hatred for the family which had caused the financial downfall of her own. Little did she guess that the ‘good people’ in Jamaica, whose kindliness she praises, so far from not having ‘a drop of Langton blood in them,’ were actually descended from that very Sir Archibald who, just one hundred years before, had brought about the catastrophe.

Sir William James Cockburn died at Athlone in January 1800, unmarried.

COLONEL SIR JAMES COCKBURN, on whom the baronetcy now devolved, was first cousin to the third baronet of that

* Family papers, J. H. Rutherford.

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Ilk. For his ancestry it is necessary to refer back to Dr. John Cockburn, younger son of Sir James, the first baronet.

Baptised 22nd April 1675,* John Cockburn adopted the profession of medicine, went to Ireland and settled at Kilkenny in the early years of the eighteenth century. About 1720 he married Martha Rich,† by whom he had two sons, William and James, and a daughter Mary. He died in December 1758, his wife having predeceased him in January 1756.‡ Their daughter Mary died about 1793, in July of which year her will was proved; wherein she expressed a wish to be buried along with her father and mother in the churchyard of St. John's parish in Kilkenny.

William Cockburn, the elder son of Dr. John and Martha Rich, entered the Church, and was for many years Archdeacon of Ossory. It was at his house in Kilkenny that his cousin, Sir James Cockburn of that Ilk, and Sir William Cockburn of Ryslaw went through the papers and drew up the account of the families§ subscribed in after years by Sir William Betham, Ulster King-of-Arms, and already referred to.

In December 1763 the archdeacon married Susanna Savage,|| by whom he had one son and four daughters. The son did not survive infancy, and the eldest and youngest daughters, Susanna and Elizabeth, died spinsters. Frances married the Rev. Edward Pidgeon of Kilkenny, and Mary, Major-General Proctor. Dr. Cockburn died at Bath in June 1776, and was buried in St. James's Church there.

His only brother James was born in 1723.¶ Entering the Army, he served under the Duke of Cumberland in Flanders, and in 1755 went to America as ensign in the forty-fourth regiment of Foot. The following year he was promoted lieutenant in the thirty-fifth, of which regiment he was lieutenant

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Kilkenny Reg. Bur.*

|| *Kilkenny Reg.*

† *Grant Book of Ossory, etc.*, Record Office, Dublin

§ Family papers, Sir R. C. and H. A. C.

¶ *Ibid.*



GENERAL SIR WILLIAM CARR SCHLABACH, 1791-1851.
Painted by Sir Martin Sheppard.



MISS MARY ANN WOODS, THE
WIFE OF GENERAL WOODS

COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

ant-colonel in October 1776. He was engaged in the siege of Louisburg, the taking of Quebec (where he was wounded), and the taking of Martinique, besides other actions in the West Indies. On his return home in 1778 he left the Army. As already stated, he succeeded to the baronetcy in 1800, and he died on 9th June 1809.

In 1754 Sir James Cockburn married Letitia Little, daughter of Luke Little of Co. Carlow. By her, who died at Bath, aged seventy-one, on 11th November 1804, and was buried at Weston, he had one son, William, his heir, and three daughters: Lucy, who died young; Mary, who married Colonel John Cockburn of the Royal Artillery*; and Margaret, who became the wife of Major Cole of Kilkenny.

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM COCKBURN, sixth baronet, as he eventually became, obtained his first commission in his father's regiment, the thirty-fifth, in 1778, and in the following year was promoted lieutenant. In 1783 he was transferred to the ninety-second, and in 1790 he exchanged into the seventy-third. He served under Lord Cornwallis through the whole of the Mysore War, being appointed to superintend the survey operations prior to and during the siege of Seringapatam.

In 1804 he was inspecting field officer of volunteers in Ireland; in June 1811 he was appointed major-general on the staff in the West Indies, and in the following year inspector-general of the Severn district. He reached the rank of lieutenant-general in July 1821. He died in March 1835, and was buried beside his first wife at Wrockwardine, Co. Salop. There is a memorial to him in the Abbey Church, Bath.

Sir William married, firstly, on 1st January 1791 in Madras Eliza Anne, daughter of Frederick Henry Creutzer and Eli-

* See the Cockburns of Kirklands of Bolton.

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zabeth Jacob, his wife.* By her he had a son William, who succeeded to the title, and a daughter Katharine, born in Madras in 1794, who became the wife of Edward Cludde, Esquire, of Orleton in Shropshire. Lady Cockburn died in 1829, and Sir William married, secondly, in July 1834 Martha H. Jervis, daughter of Captain W. H. R. Jervis, R.N., nephew of the first Viscount St. Vincent. She survived until 1865.

SIR WILLIAM SANSFIELD ROSSITER COCKBURN, seventh baronet, only son of the sixth baronet, was born at Bath on 11th June 1796, and was educated at Exeter College, Oxford. He lived at Lansdown Grove, Bath, and Downton House, New Radnor, at which latter house he died on 12th April 1858.

On 15th October 1823 he married Ann, eldest daughter of the Rev. Francis Coke of Lefore, Co. Hereford. Of this union were born four sons and five daughters, but the eldest son and the third, and all the daughters, died young and unmarried. The second son, Edward Cludde Cockburn, succeeded to the baronetcy; while the youngest, George William, born 14th January 1838, entered the Army and served for a number of years in the forty-second (Black Watch). At Malta on 5th June 1861 he married Emily Sara, only daughter of the Ven. John Cleugh, Archdeacon of Malta. His issue is shown in the pedigree chart.

Both Sir William Cockburn and his wife, who survived him just twenty-one years, as well as some of their children, are buried at Eardisley in Herefordshire.

SIR EDWARD CLUDDE COCKBURN, eldest surviving son, who succeeded as eighth baronet, was born at Downton on 10th

* Elizabeth Jacob was aunt of Sir Charles Jacob, sixth and last baronet, and her paternal grandmother was sister of the first Duke of Chandos.



SIR EDWARD BULLOCK, BART. OF STURTON
LEICESTERSHIRE

COCKBURNS OF THAT ILK

June 1834. Educated, like his father, at Exeter College, Oxford, he entered the Army on the outbreak of the Crimean War with a commission in the 11th Hussars, and served with that regiment throughout the campaign.

Soon after his return to England he lost his father, and in 1859 he married Mary Anne Frances, daughter of Robert Kerr Elliot of Harwood and Clifton Park, Roxburghshire, by whom he had four sons and five daughters.

A few years after his marriage Sir Edward moved from Downton and purchased Pennoxtone Court, near Ross in Herefordshire. There he died on 24th December 1903, and was buried with his parents and sisters at Eardisley.

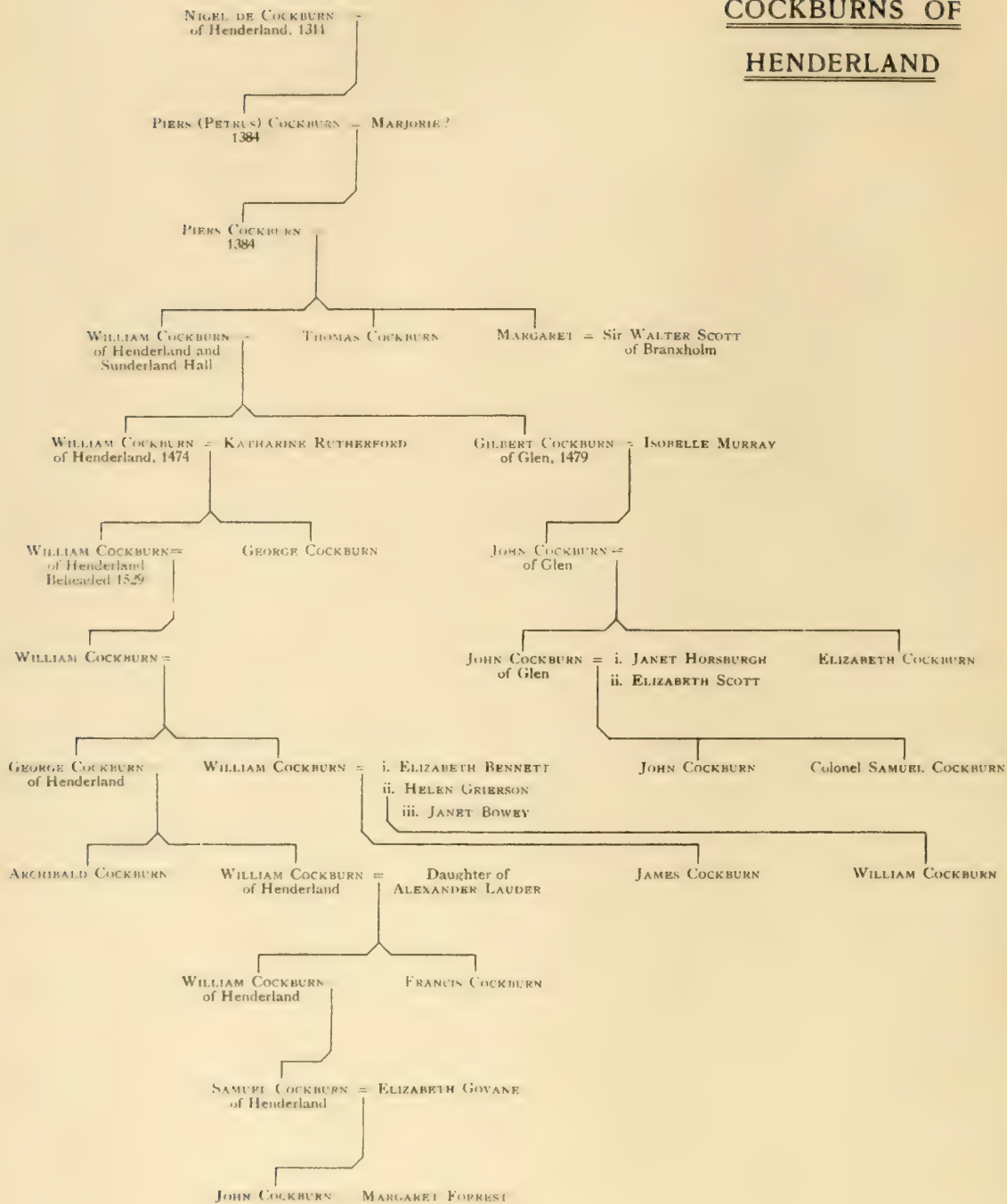
Sir Edward was High Sheriff for Herefordshire in 1866, and a justice of the peace and deputy-lieutenant of the same county.

SIR ROBERT COCKBURN, ninth and present baronet, who succeeded his father, was born at Downton on 7th December 1861, and was educated at Cheltenham and King's College, London. Entering the Hereford Militia in 1879, he retired as honorary major in 1905, and having sold the estate of Pennoxtone in 1906, now resides in Lansdown Crescent, Bath, in one of the houses which belonged to his great-grandfather, General Sir William Cockburn.

Sir Robert was made a justice of the peace for the county of Hereford on 27th June 1904.

NOTE, p. 92.—It should have been stated that Hugh Blair Rutherford, Captain, 25th Regt., of Crosshill, Fife, Andrew Rutherford, Lord Advocate from 1839 to 1841 and from 1846 to 1851, afterwards Lord Rutherford, and James Hunter Rutherford, Major, Royal Engineers, were grandsons of Captain John Greenfield and Grizel Cockburn, his wife.

COCKBURNS OF HENDERLAND



COCKBURNS OF HENDERLAND

It is rather open to question whether this family should not be given priority to all other Cockburns, since they were undoubted landowners at a time when others of the name were, at any rate on the Borders, landless.

Seeing, however, that with this important exception the Cockburns are descended from the house of Langton, which property was acquired about 1330, it has been thought better to relate the history of the Henderland family here; for although they were landowners in 1311 and before, the line was not continued for more than three hundred and fifty years, and few cadets branched off from the stem.

The first proved ancestor was NIGEL DE COCKBURN, who may possibly have been son of that Piers de Cockburn who swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick in 1296, and also may have been brother of Alexander de Cockburn who acquired Langton by marriage some thirty years later. At all events Nigel and Alexander were related, as will be shown presently.

Nigel de Cockburn's lands 'in Meget' (*i.e.* Henderland on the shores of St. Mary's Loch) were taken from him by Edward I., and, together with other lands, forfeited for what the English King called rebellion, were granted to Robert Hastang. In 1311, however, Nigel and most of his fellow-sufferers having come to the King's peace, Edward II. restored their property, recompensing Hastang with the lands of less amenable lairds.* Henderland thus belonged to the Cockburns certainly at the end of the thirteenth century; how much earlier it is impossible to say. It seems, indeed, that the Cockburns both held and lost a good deal of land before their recorded history commences; for the lands of Cockburn, which were at this time in the hands of the

* *Cal. Doc. rel. to Scotland*, vol. iii. No. 258.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Douglas family,* were undoubtedly the original home of the family, though they did not come back to them for many a day.

PIERS DE COCKBURN, probably Nigel's son, was the next owner, and besides Henderland he possessed Sunderland Hall in Selkirkshire. This is seen from a rather important charter† granted by King Robert II. in 1384, in which both these properties and other lands, being surrendered to the King, are entailed on Piers, son of the aforesaid Piers, and on the heirs of his body lawfully begotten; whom failing, to the brothers and sisters of the said son lawfully procreated; whom failing, to Alexander Cockburn of Langton and his heirs and assignees. No hint of the relationship between Piers of Henderland and Alexander of Langton is expressed, but one would infer from the terms of the remainder that they had a common ancestor not many generations back.‡

In 1384 then, during his father's lifetime, PIERS COCKBURN, the son, succeeded to Henderland and the other property. A memorial of himself and his wife (or possibly of his parents) is in existence to the present day, in the shape of a tomb, now enclosed within an iron railing, situated on the top of a wooded knoll a short way up the Megget Water from St. Mary's Loch. The flat slab of stone bears the inscription: '*Here lyes Perys of Cokburne and hys wyfe Marjory,*' with a cross and sword running almost the whole length.

It seems probable that a church originally stood on this knoll, but no vestige of it remains nowadays, and nearly five hundred years must have passed since this Piers de Cockburn was laid to rest. This tomb is said to have been repaired on

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. i. No. 3.

† *Ibid.*, p. 163, No. 11.

‡ After the name of Alexander Cockburn of Langton is inserted the Latin word *pater*, as at that time this Alexander of Langton had a son of the same name. Mr. Hood in his *House of Cockburn* has taken it to mean that Alexander was father of Piers, which is quite incorrect.

COCKBURNS OF HENDERLAND

several occasions; certainly in 1841 at the instance of Mr. Murray of Henderland, and probably at other times. Perhaps because the existence of this tangible memorial makes him a more actual figure than others of his age, the romantic death which was really his descendant William's (though even his with much of the romance shorn away) is often attributed to this Piers. Even the *Dictionary of National Biography* confesses uncertainty on the subject, though the unimpeachable records, cited by Pitcairn, do not really leave any room for doubt. The story, both the legendary and historical versions, will be told in the proper place. Piers Cockburn had at least two sons, William and Thomas, and a daughter Margaret, married to Sir Walter Scott of Branxholm, ancestor of the ducal family of Buccleugh. William succeeded to Henderland and Sunderland Hall, while Thomas was in 1462 appointed chaplain to the chapel of St. Michael in Peebles; and three years later was one of the 'Bryg-Masters' who superintended the building of the bridge over the Tweed.*

WILLIAM COCKBURN, the next laird of Henderland, had his estates forfeited in 1464† on account of his adherence to the Black Douglases during their struggle with the Crown; and Henderland and Sunderland passed for a time to William Douglas of Cluny by gift from King James III. The forfeiture was perhaps only intended as a warning to the turbulent chieftain, or the King happened to be in a very magnanimous mood, for within three months, 29th March,‡ Henderland was restored to him, along with the lands of Skifftonholme in Annandale, of which this is the earliest mention. Ten years later Sunderland Hall, too, had been restored to him.§

* Chambers, *Records of the Burgh*, p. 154.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 775. ‡ *Ibid.*, No. 788. § *Ibid.*, No. 1180.

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William Cockburn married one Katharine Rutherford, and by her had a son William, who succeeded, and probably another, Gilbert, who became possessed of the lands of Glen, and will presently be dealt with.

Of WILLIAM COCKBURN who succeeded to Henderland we know little; he had at least two sons: William, his heir, and George Cockburn, who is mentioned in John Foular's *Protocol Book*, vol. i. p. 56, as witness to a deed.

In 1498 'Edward Cokburne produced a remission for the slaughter of Roger Twedy, in company with the Laird of Hennislande'; and 'William Cokburne of Hennyslande became surety to satisfy the parties'*; but whether this laird of Henderland was the William just mentioned or his son, the hero of the tale now to be told, it is impossible to say.

Every one who knows Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Borders* is familiar with the pathetic story which Sir Walter, in the most arbitrary manner, tacks on to that exquisite ballad, 'The Border Widow's Lament.' This story is that King James v., determined to make an example of some of those turbulent Border lairds who had so long robbed and slaughtered with impunity, crossed the hills with a large retinue, pounced unexpectedly upon Cockburn of Henderland as he sat at dinner, and straightway had him hanged over his own gate. Close by the castle was the Dow Linn, to which the wife retreated during the execution of her husband, and 'strove to drown amid the roar of the foaming cataract, the tumultuous noise which announced the close of his existence.'

This is extremely pretty; but unfortunately historical

* Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. p. 26. There seems to have been a feud between the Cockburns and the Twedys, for at the same date Sir William Cockburn of Skirling and his brother James were concerned in the slaughter of one Twedy and the mutilation of another (Pitcairn, *loc. cit.*; and see Cockburns of Skirling).

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documents prove it to be nothing more than what Professor Child calls the 'random inventions' of Sir Walter, who is further responsible for the confusion of William with his ancestor Piers. *William* Cockburn certainly suffered from the King's wrath; but he was beheaded, not hanged, and the execution took place not at his own gate but in Edinburgh, his head afterwards being fixed upon the Tolbooth.*

This tragedy occurred in May 1530, the conviction being for 'High Treason committed by him in bringing Alexander Forestare and his son, Englishmen, to the plundering of Archibald Somerville, and for theft.'

About the same time Cockburn's friend and neighbour, Adam Scott of Tushielaw, captured on the same royal raid, also suffered death, the charges against him including the levying of blackmail. This last crime, however, was in those days and in that wild land almost a recognised source of income. The Border lairds at any rate considered that they had a right to levy a tax on travellers and merchandise passing through their territory. But the tax was often collected at the point of the spear.

WILLIAM COCKBURN, son of the laird of Henderland who was thus made an example to his troublesome neighbours, was now landless, his father's estates having been forfeited to the Crown.

In 1542 he wrote to the Regent, James, Earl of Arran, asking for a full copy of the proceedings and judgment against his father, no doubt in order that he might petition in due form for the restoration of his estates. Thus moved, the Regent wrote to the Justice-Clerk on his behalf:—

'Justice Clerk, we grete you weill. Forsamekill as Williame Cokburne, sone and heir of umquille Williame

* Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. p. 145. There is another version of the story in Wilson's *Tales of the Borders*, vol. iii., under the title of 'The Royal Raid.'

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Cokburne of Hinderland, has menit [complained] to us that he is havelie [heavily] hurt throu the haisty justyfeing [execution] of his said fader, and fforfaltung of him thairthreu: And thairfore desyres to have ye autentik copy of the Dome and Sentence gevin againis his said fader, and of all actis and protestatiounis takin by him at that tyme; sa that he may provide for sum remeid thairin, quharfore, ye shall geif to him upoun his expenssis the authentik Copy,' etc., etc.

Cockburn's efforts were evidently successful, for Henderland was restored to him, though whether at once or after the law's usual delays is not certain.*

Who his wife was we do not know, but he had two sons: George and William.

William was a merchant burges of Edinburgh, and was married thrice: first, to Elizabeth Bennett, who died in 1573,† leaving three children: Agnes, James, and Katharine; secondly, to Helen Grierson, who died in 1577, leaving one son, William; and thirdly, to Janet Bowey, who died in 1584, leaving a daughter, Susanna. This William was probably the same who had some exciting adventures in his attempts to recover a large debt owing to him by one John Clerk of London. In 1583 King James recommended to Sir Francis Walsingham the case of William Cockburn, 'an honest merchant,' who was going to England to procure payment of a debt owing to him by a man of the name of Clerk 'in Cripplegate,' to whom he had sold wines to the value of £300. From subsequent papers it appears that the unfortunate William, who had gone by sea from Scotland to London, had been set upon by pirates in Yarmouth Roads, and his ship and goods pillaged. In the spring of 1584, however, he made a further attempt

* Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. p. 145.

† *Edin. Tests*.

COCKBURNS OF HENDERLAND

to reach London and his debtor, but with what success we cannot say.*

By some means or other he became part owner of the lands of Whitslaid in Peeblesshire, which thirty or more years after his death were still† in the hands of his son William. James, 'brother-german' of this William (his elder half-brother), is mentioned in this deed, but whether either of them left issue does not appear.

GEORGE COCKBURN succeeded his father in Henderland, and died in September 1571,‡ leaving two sons: Archibald and William.

Of ARCHIBALD COCKBURN the heir nothing is known, but he must have died in early life, as his brother,

WILLIAM COCKBURN, had succeeded him in the lands of Henderland by 1606.§ This laird married a daughter of Alexander Lauder of Halton, one of the branches of the once influential family of Lauder. Halton, in the parish of Ratho, had been in possession of the family since 1377. Alexander Lauder's mother had been a Cockburn, daughter of John Cockburn of Ormiston; but his parents were divorced in 1587,|| and the male line became extinct on the death of his son Richard about 1650. This Richard Lauder's daughter Elizabeth married Charles Maitland, third Earl of Lauderdale, and Halton remained in the Lauderdale family till 1782, when it was sold to Miss Scot of Scotstarvet.||

William Cockburn had two sons: William and Francis,¶ and he died about 1622.

* *Cal. Scot. Papers*, vol. vi. pp. 291, 507, etc.

† *Reg. Deeds*, vol. ccccxxxi., June 1630.

‡ *Edin. Tests*.

§ *Hay Deeds*, vol. cxix., April 1606.

|| *Grange of St. Giles*.

¶ *Hay Office Deeds*, vol. ccxxviii., 1614.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

WILLIAM, his elder son, succeeded to Henderland, being retoured heir to his father on 16th October 1623. His life was a short one; and we know little of him, except that he was dead by July 1629, and left three sons: Samuel, his heir, John, and Richard.* These two latter are merely mentioned in various deeds between 1622 and 1642, Richard being described in 1641 as 'indweller in Cramhill in Ettrick.'

SAMUEL, the next laird of Henderland, was for some strange reason retoured heir not to his father, as might have been expected, but to his great-great-grandfather, William Cockburn of Henderland, son of the ill-fated laird who died by the executioner's hands in Edinburgh.

For this reason it has been inferred† that Samuel was merely a kinsman of the last laird, but there is unanswerable evidence to the contrary. In a deed dated July 1629 John and Richard Cockburn are described as 'lawful sons to umquille William Cockburn of Henderland,'‡ and nine years later they are described as brothers-german to Samuel Cockburn of Henderland.§ This is conclusive proof that Samuel was also a lawful son.

Five years after succeeding to his inheritance he found himself obliged to part with his property, and by a charter dated 22nd March 1634 he sold the lands of Henderland, Broomielaw, and Brigend, with the Manor Place of Henderland, to John, Lord Hay of Yester. This charter was ratified by King Charles I. on 29th of the same month, but the lands of Henderland were excepted from the confirmation.||

From this it would appear that Samuel Cockburn had come to some agreement with Lord Yester as to his retain-

* *Gibson Deeds*, vol. ccccix., July 1629.

† *Gibson Deeds*, vol. ccccix.

|| *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ix. No. 102.

† Hood, *House of Cockburn*.

§ *Hay Deeds*, July 1637.

COCKBURNS OF HENDERLAND

ing Henderland; but it can only have been a temporary arrangement, for in 1638 all these lands were included in a Crown charter, by which they were acquired by John, Earl of Traquair, from Lord Hay of Yester and Samuel Cockburn.*

In 1658, and again in 1661, James, Earl of Southesk, and Anna, Countess of Buccleugh, are respectively mentioned in the 'Retours' as being served heirs to certain lands, which included Henderland; but in a history of the Cockburns it is perhaps as unnecessary, as it is certainly melancholy, to trace in any detail the descent of estates after the family has lost them. About the middle of the eighteenth century Henderland was acquired by a branch of the Murray family of Peeblesshire, † one of whom, Alexander, as a Lord of Session, took the title of Lord Henderland.

Alexander Murray, Lord Henderland, was son of Archibald Murray, second son of Alexander Murray of Cringletie; and the said Archibald Murray acquired the estate of Nisbet, ‡ a suburb of Edinburgh, to which he gave the name of Murrayfield, a district now being rapidly built over. Henderland seems to have remained in the Murray family till 1862, † when Mr. Wolfe Murray of Cringletie disposed of it to the Earl of Wemyss.

Samuel Cockburn married Elizabeth, daughter of William Govane of Cardrona. The only known issue of this match was a son John, who in 1646 was apprenticed to George Robertson, a goldsmith of Edinburgh. § To us this seems a humble position for one whose forbears had been landowners for several hundred years; but it was a situation in which many a younger or impoverished son found himself in the seventeenth century. And, after all, the goldsmiths were the bankers in those days.

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ix. Nos. 802, 894.

† *Hist. of Peeblesshire Localities.*

‡ Douglas, *Baronage.*

§ *Prentice Roll.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

About 1655 John Cockburn married Margaret Forrest, by whom he had three sons* and four daughters: John, baptised in April 1656; Thomas in November 1657; Agnes in June 1660; Elizabeth in January 1663; Janet in April 1665; Isobel in March 1667; and Alexander in September 1669.

Now no less than five of these children died young, and were buried in Old Greyfriars kirkyard between February 1660 and June 1668.† Unfortunately, however, none of their names are given in the register, where each is simply described as 'a child' of John Cockburn, goldsmith. This makes it a little difficult to say which of them grew up; but on comparing the dates of their baptism and the dates of the interments we can give a shrewd conjecture that the only two who are not in the Greyfriars register of burials at that time are Janet or Isobel, and Alexander, who was not born till after his father's children had stopped dying. Infant mortality was very high in those years, as is shown by the burials of so many children of James Cockburn and Cecil Barbour (see p. 186).

John Cockburn the goldsmith himself died in 1675, and was buried on 22nd December in Old Greyfriars kirkyard. His widow, Margaret, survived him for nearly eleven years, being buried in the same place on 25th July 1686.

We are thus left with Alexander, the only grandson of Samuel Cockburn of Henderland; and unfortunately we are unable to trace him further, so that we must reluctantly bring this account of the long line of Cockburns of Henderland to an end.

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

COCKBURNS OF GLEN

THIS branch, a cadet of Henderland, apparently lasted for only three or four generations, and from a genealogical point of view it is rather unsatisfactory. In 1479 Gilbert Cockburn, seemingly a younger son of William of Henderland, who had his lands temporarily forfeited in 1464 (see p. 103), was in possession of Glen,* in the parish of Traquair in Peeblesshire. His wife was one Isobelle Murray, and they had at any rate one son, John.

This John was deceased before 1581,† and we do not know his wife's name; but he also left one son, John, besides two daughters, Elizabeth and Isobel. Elizabeth was served heir‡ of her grandmother, Isobelle Murray, in the third part of Glen in 1596. Isobel is merely named in her brother John's will.

He, John Cockburn of Glen, married Janet Horsburgh, by whom he must have had several children, whose names we do not know. In her will, dated March 1576,§ she called upon her husband to 'do weill to my bairns, and to pay my dettis, as he will answer in the presens of the eternal God at the day of Judgment'; but the foolish woman makes no mention of the names of her 'bairns,' nor does her husband in his own will. It seems probable that they had at any rate two sons: John and Samuel. As shown in the chapter 'Cockburns Abroad' (see p. 253, where details of his career are given), a Samuel Cockburn entered the Swedish army in 1598 under Gustavus Adolphus. When he died in 1621 at Abo in Finland a monument|| to his memory in the cathedral there by his brother John Cockburn. Now the name Samuel is of very rare occurrence in this family, the only other instances in those days being Samuel Cockburn of Henderland (so named, we may assume,

* *Origines*, vol. i. p. 222.

† *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. liii. fol. 36.

‡ *Peebles Returns*.

§ *Edin. Tests*, Dec. 1578.

|| Communicated by G. J. Wikestrom, Vice-Consul, Abo.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

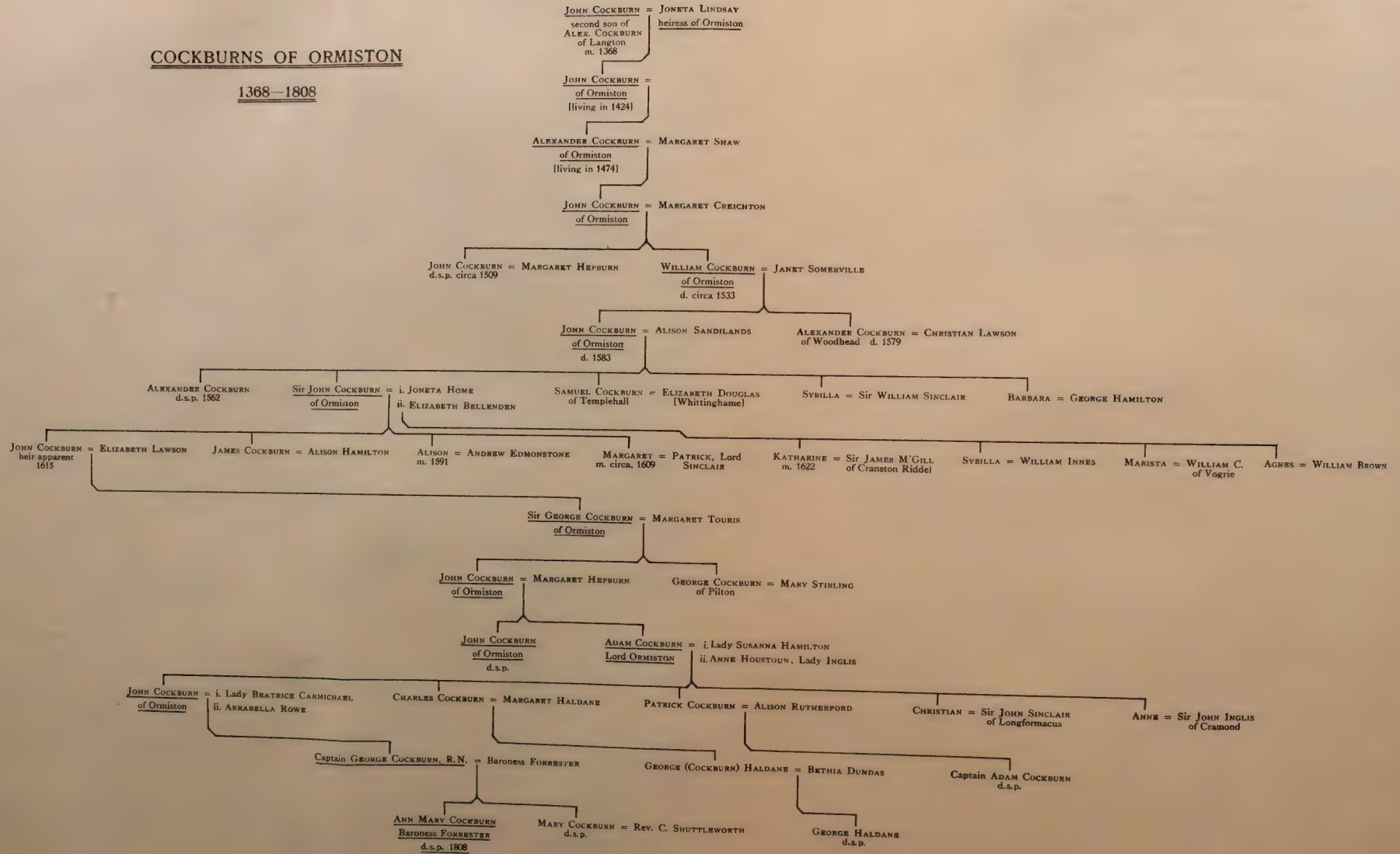
from his elder cousin, this soldier of fortune in Sweden), and Samuel, one of the sons of John Cockburn of Ormiston, who died in 1583.

From information given by the late vice-consul at Abo it appears that Colonel Samuel Cockburn was born in 1574, so that he would have only been two years old when his mother died. Hence her anxiety that her husband should 'do weill to' her bairns.

After the death of Janet Horsburgh, John Cockburn of Glen took to himself another wife, Bessie Scott, daughter of one John Scott, but whether he had any issue by her it is impossible to say. He died in August 1588.

COCKBURNS OF ORMISTON

1368—1808



COCKBURNS OF ORMISTON

1368-1747

THE house of Ormiston was derived from the Cockburns of Langton. When JOHN COCKBURN, second son of Sir Alexander Cockburn and Mariota Vipont, married Joneta Lindsay, daughter and heiress of Sir Alexander Lindsay of Ormiston, a scion of the well-known family ennobled with the earldom of Crawford, the bride's father made Ormiston his wedding present. The charter by which he did so is dated 22nd February 1368.* It is witnessed by a formidable array of abbots, knights, and 'landed gentry,' doubtless gathered together for the ceremony, which was evidently regarded as one of importance.

Of the early members of the family thus solemnly inaugurated, however, there is very little authentic information to be found, and their history resolves itself into a bare catalogue of the successive lairds of Ormiston.

After the husband of Joneta Lindsay, the next of whom there is any mention is SIR JOHN COCKBURN of Ormiston, who witnessed a charter in 1424†; from which date there is another hiatus until 1472, when

ALEXANDER COCKBURN was the reigning laird. He married Margaret Shaw in 1488‡; but she must have been his second wife, for in 1472 he had a son already married. He died in 1506,§ and was succeeded by his son,

JOHN COCKBURN, to whom he had twenty-four years previously resigned the lands of Tempillaw or Templehall,

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. i. pp. 59, 61. Mr. Hood in the *House of Cockburn* places the marriage in 1370, but as he quotes the same authority, which gives the date, according to the custom then obtaining, as 39 David II., he must have reckoned from the King's coronation in 1331 instead of from his accession in June 1329.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 3.

‡ *Acta Auditorum*.

§ John Foular, *Protocol Book*.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

which were settled in dower on John's wife Margaret Crichton.* This laird had at any rate two sons: John and William. John the younger married Margaret Hepburn, but died without issue about 1509, shortly after the King had granted him for his services the lands of Craik, part of the barony of Chalmerlane-Newtoun in Roxburgh temporarily forfeited by the Hepburns, Earls of Bothwell.† At this date his father and mother were both alive.‡

WILLIAM COCKBURN, the younger son of the elder John, presumably by Margaret Crichton, succeeded to Ormiston. Little is known of him, but it is his modest distinction to have figured in a law-suit. In October 1528 Mr. Thomas Ker of Sunderland Hall, James Ker of Farnielee, and nine others were prosecuted for the 'oppression done to William Cockburn of Ormiston, coming to his Park under silence of night, armed with lances and other invasive weapons, breaking up the gates thereof, and with bows and dogs chasing his deer; wounding his servants and mutilating one called Thomas Anderson.'§

Soon after this William Cockburn must have joined the majority, for in October 1533 his wife Janet Somerville is described as his widow.|| By her, a daughter of Lord Somerville, whose family was already connected with the Cockburns of Skirling, he had several children; among them John, who succeeded to Ormiston, and Alexander.

Alexander Cockburn became possessed of Meredine, part of the barony of Makerston on the Tweed in Roxburghshire, of which the Macdougalls were superiors. In March 1556 he sold his rights to Thomas Macdougall

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 1061; cf. No. 3278.

† *Ibid.*, No. 3282.

‡ *Ibid.*, No. 3278.

§ Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. pp. 139, 140.

|| *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. xvi. p. 569.

COCKBURNS OF ORMISTON

of Makerston,* and is thereafter described as 'of Woodhead.' In 1550 he had married Christian, daughter of James Lawson of Humbie,† and by her had John, who was slain by David Seton; Alexander, who succeeded John, his brother, in Woodhead in 1593; and two daughters, who married respectively Ninian Hamilton, and George Hamilton of Preston. These sons-in-law are mentioned in Alexander's will. Alexander of Woodhead himself died in November 1579.‡

Whether Janet Somerville had been widow of Hugh Douglas of Boorg at her marriage with William Cockburn, or had married Hugh Douglas when William Cockburn's widow, we cannot say; but in May 1550 her son Hugh Douglas on the one part and her son Alexander Cockburn on the other part entered into a contract anent an annual rent from the lands of Gosford.§

JOHN COCKBURN, elder son of William Cockburn and Janet Somerville, was a person of far more note than his father, whom he succeeded in the family property. He was a staunch Protestant and a friend of John Knox, whom he employed as tutor to his son. In his day Ormiston was witness if not of a tragedy, yet of the prelude of a tragedy, which may well have had some effect on Cockburn's attitude towards those in authority and their faith. A few days before Christmas in 1545 George Wishart, the reformer, together with his more famous friend, Knox, were preaching in Haddington. After the sermon the two men parted company, Wishart taking his way to Ormiston Hall. Thither the same night came the Earl of Bothwell and persuaded John Cockburn to give the reformer into his charge, pledging his faithful word, however, not to deliver him either to the Regent

* *Scott Deeds*, vol. i. No. 336.

† *Edin. Tests*.

‡ *Acts and Decrees*.

§ *Acts and Decrees*.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Arran or to Cardinal Beaton. His oath was ill-observed. On 19th January Wishart was conveyed from Hales to Edinburgh and imprisoned in the castle. At the end of February he was handed over to Cardinal Beaton, who tried him summarily on the last day of that month, and caused him to be burned as a heretic before his eyes.*

Nor was Cockburn done with the affair when he reluctantly saw Wishart depart from Ormiston. Shortly afterwards Bothwell returned 'with more horsemen than went away,'† and seized Cockburn himself, Sandilands, the young laird of Calder, and Crichton, laird of Brunstone. While preparations were being made for the prisoners' removal Brunstone succeeded in getting away, but the other two were committed to the castle of Edinburgh. Ormiston, however, is said to have escaped thence by leaping from a wall; and in March 1546 James Lawson of Hieriggis was accused of having helped him and Calder to break prison.‡

Cockburn was under suspicion on other accounts than as the friend of George Wishart. In September 1546 he had remission for having 'treasonably intercommuned with an Englishman, the Earl of Hertford,' touching a marriage between the young Queen Mary and Edward vi.§ As a Protestant he was naturally in favour of such an alliance in preference to the French match desired by the Catholics. Not that he was singular in this. A list of lairds and landowners sworn to assist the English, which fell into the hands of the Regent Arran, contained ten-score names. Amongst those incriminated were the Earl Marshal, the Earl of Cassillis, Lord Kilmaurs, and Lord Gray; while Sir David Nesbit, George Hoppingle of Torwoodlee, Richard Maitland of Lethington, and William Lauder had all 'treasonably in-

* Foxe, *Acts and Monuments*, vol. v. p. 636.

† Calderwood, *Historie of the Kirk of Scotland*.

‡ Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. pp. 333, 334.

§ *Reg. Privy Seal*.

COCKBURNS OF ORMISTON

tercommuned' with the English. James Cockburn of Langton was also in correspondence with Somerset; and in November 1547 John Cockburn could report to the Protector that the English King had few enemies in the Merse (Borders) except in the castle of Dunbar.* Thus if the laird of Ormiston was a 'traitor' (as Mr. Andrew Lang called him), he sinned in good company.

In 1547, when Somerset marched into Scotland, Cockburn was active on his behalf, and is said to have guided the English forces through the Border country, and put them on the road for the fateful field of Pinkie. Setting out from Berwick at the beginning of September, they passed Eyemouth and Preston, reaching on the 5th of the month a place called 'the Peaths'†; so called (says Patten, an Englishman who accompanied the expedition) from the numerous sloopwise paths used by travellers crossing the deep ravine, which had a small burn coursing down its centre. This burn is nowadays called the Pease. It is worthy of note that in earlier days Cockburnspath, which lies about a mile away, was always called Colbrandspeth, and that only after or about the time of the passing of Somerset's army did it begin to be written Cok or Cock burn or brands peth. It is tempting to take this transformation as a proof that John Cockburn did actually guide the expedition through the Peaths. But this matter will be discussed more fully elsewhere.

Ormiston at any rate was at first among Somerset's staunchest supporters. Ninian Cockburn certified him to be one of the only two to be trusted.‡ When, learning of Arran's intention to send a body of horse against them, certain of the Lothian lairds were for giving pledges of good behavi-

* *Cal. Scot. Papers*, vol. i. p. 40.

† *Fragments of Scottish History*.

‡ *Cal. Scot. Papers*, vol. i. p. 41. This Ninian Cockburn kept Somerset and Grey of Wilton supplied with information as to the state of affairs in Scotland. Who he was, genealogically speaking, it is difficult to say.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

our, he stood out against the suggestion. 'Yf we do that,' said he, 'for safetie of our houses and gooddes, we shall never be sett by, nor estemed with Englande, and also yf we sholde do that, Englande wolde not fayle to dystroye us without favour. And I saye,' quod he, 'I will never consent thereto, what harme that ever followe.'* These words prevailed, and a few months later John Cockburn paid the penalty of his boldness. In February 1548 he was in charge of Saltoun House. Arran attacked the place, took it by undermining, and hanged those of the garrison who had not perished by the sword. He next turned his attention to Ormiston itself, which he burned and despoiled.† Later the Regent, fearing a fresh invasion under Lord Grey of Wilton, is said to have repented of his stringency, and sent for Cockburn's wife to persuade her husband to condone his doings.‡

The laird was not thus to be cajoled, but the burning of Ormiston seems to have somewhat damped his ardour in the Protestant cause. He remained staunch, but was reported to show more goodwill than service, and to be slack in time of danger.§ Nevertheless, he kept in touch with the English Government, and, his Scots lands being temporarily forfeit, he received ample recompense south of the Border. In the spring of 1552, 'in consideration of the trusty and acceptable service towards us by our beloved John Cockburne, lord of Ormiston, done and rendered, as well as in consideration of the great burdens and damage which he has sustained in our service,' Edward VI. granted him a very large extent of land and numerous houses situated in Northumberland and Durham, the property of the dissolved Hospital of St. Giles in Keyper. These estates, however, he sold in 1576 to one John Heath of the city of London,

* *Cal. Scot. Papers*, vol. i. p. 44.

† *Ibid.*, p. 108.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 88.

§ *Ibid.*, pp. 151, 256.

COCKBURNS OF ORMISTON

and from the record of the sale one gets an idea of the generosity of Edward's gift: 'The manors of Keyper, Old Durham, Jeston, Frosterley, Little Keyper and Tweedmouth, 500 messuages, 500 cottages, 500 tofts, 10 watermills, 10 dovecots, 20,000 acres of land, 10,000 acres of meadow, 20,000 acres of pasture, 1000 acres of wood, 20,000 acres of moor and marsh'—goodly possessions to give up. But by that time he had been many years repossessed of his Scots lands.*

From the day when the earl had tricked him about George Wishart—if not from earlier—there seems to have been an implacable feud between Ormiston and Bothwell. In October 1559, when Cockburn, accompanied by seven men, was conveying six thousand crowns to Arran—now Duke of Chatelherault and in alliance with England—his old enemy, with a party of twenty-four, met him and robbed him of the money, † wounding him in the face with a sword. Again, in March 1562 Bothwell lay in wait for him when, accompanied by his wife and his eldest son Alexander, he was 'riding about the fields hunting.' The laird and his wife retired, while the son rode forward to see who the party was. On recognising Bothwell, Alexander Cockburn fired at him, but was seized by the earl's men. He was, however, rescued. ‡

Ormiston's name occurs in the list of those implicated in the murder of Rizzio.§

He died on 22nd November 1583, having, in consequence of the dangerous and distressed state of the country, made his will thirteen years earlier.||

About 1533 he had married Alison or Alys Sandilands, sister of James, first Lord Torphichen. She survived him

* Restored to him by Parliament in December 1563 (*Cal. Scot. Papers*, vol. ii. p. 100).

† *Ibid.*, vol. i. p. 262.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 612.

§ *Ibid.*, vol. ii. p. 269.

|| *Edin. Tests.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

two and a half years, having borne him six children: Alexander, John, Samuel, Jean, Barbara, and Sybil or Sybilla.

Alexander, the eldest son, was a most promising young man of high attainments and education, who, had he lived, would probably have made his mark in the service of his country. He had John Knox as his tutor, and in later years travelled much in foreign countries. In May 1560 he was at Bourges, whence his father desired him to come home, and the English ambassador was requested to help him and to give him '150 French crowns, as he lacks furniture.'* He died in September 1562, being then only in his twenty-eighth year.

In the ruined chapel at Ormiston a large brass erected to his memory is still extant, and in a wonderful state of preservation, considering its age and the manner in which the building has been neglected.

John, the second son, became heir to Ormiston by his elder brother's death, and was eventually, as Lord Justice-Clerk, a conspicuous personage.

Samuel, the third son, succeeded to the lands of Templehall, † the property adjoining Ormiston, already mentioned as settled on his great-grandmother, Margaret Crichton. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Douglas of Whittinghame, and had, with other children, Captain Francis Cockburn, who had sasine of the lands of Templehall on 4th March 1615, and married Marian Boyd, sister to Stephen Boyd, merchant burghess of Edinburgh; and William Cockburn of Vogrie, who married his cousin Mariota, daughter of Sir John Cockburn of Ormiston, Lord Justice-Clerk, and died in 1646. ‡ Another son of Samuel Cockburn and Elizabeth Douglas was John, who is described as 'of Black-

* *Cal. Scot. Papers*, vol. i. p. 394.

† *Scott Deeds*.

‡ *Edin. Tests*.

OMNIA QVA LONGA IN VLG ET MORTALIBVS ETAS
 HÆC TIBI ALEXANDER PRIMA VVENTA DEDIT
 CVM GENERE ET FORMA GENEROSO SANGVINE DIGNA
 IN GENIVM VELOX INGENVVMQ ANIMVM
 EXCOLVIT VIRTVS ANIMVM INGENIVMQ CAMENEX
 SVCCESSV STVDIO CONSILIOQ PARI
 HIS DVCI BVVS PRIMVM PAGATA BRITANNIA DEINDE
 GALLIA AD ARMIFEROS QVA PÆTET HELVETIOS
 DOCTVS BIBLINGVAS QVAS ROMA SION ET ATHENAS
 QVAS CVM GERMANO GALLIA DOCTA SONAT
 TE LICET IN PRIMA RAPVERVN TATA VVENTA
 NON IMMATVRO FVNERE RAPTVS OBIS
 OMNIBVS OFFICIIS VITA QVI FVNCTVS OBIVIT
 NON FAS HVNC VITA EST DE BREVITATE QVERI

HIC CONDITVR M ALEXANDER CORBYRN
 PRIMOGENIT IOANNIS DOMINI ORMISTONIE
 ET ALISONÆ SANDILANDS EX PRECLARA
 FAMILIA QUI DE P VTNATVS 12 JANVARII 1535
 IN A NEM LINGVARIVM PROFESSIONEM
 ANNO ETATIS SVÆ 28 CALEN SEPT

THE WINDSOR RECORDS OF THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN

COCKBURNS OF ORMISTON

friars, London.* He had five daughters, all but one of whom found husbands in Scotland.

Jean married in April 1549 William Lauder, son of Alexander Lauder of Halton.† She died in July 1600, and in her will expressed a wish to be buried in Ormiston Kirk.‡

Barbara married in 1563 George Hamilton, son of Sir David Hamilton of Fingalton.§

Sybilla married in 1566 Sir William Sinclair of Herdmanston.||

JOHN COCKBURN, the second but eldest surviving son of John Cockburn and Alison Sandilands, succeeded to Ormiston on his father's death. He must have already attained to some prominence as a lawyer, for on 4th July 1588 he presented to the Court of Session a letter from Robert, Lord Boyd, Extraordinary Lord of Session, wherein his lordship wrote that, 'understanding my weikness of body be reason of my gret age whereby I am not so able to make continual residence in our Sovereign Lord's service as I was wont to do befor, therefor of my own frie will and at his Majestie's gentill request,' he resigned his place in favour of John Cockburn of Ormiston, 'of whom his Majesty has made special choice.'¶ In 1591, on the death of Sir Lewis Bellenden (whose half-sister he married), Cockburn was knighted and appointed Justice-Clerk in his place. According to the *Staggering State of the Scots Statesmen*,** 'Sir Lewis Bellenden dealt with a warlock (or wizard) called Richard Graham to raise the Devil, and having raised him in his own yard in the Canongate, he was thereby so terrified, that he took sickness and died thereof.'

* *Gibson Deeds*, Nov. 1626.

† *Edin. Tests*.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. vi. fol. 284.

** By Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet (1585-1670); not published until 1754.

† *Scott Deeds*, vol. xxviii. fol. 194.

§ *Scott Deeds*, vol. ix. fol. 11.

¶ *Court of Session Records*.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

As Lord Justice-Clerk, Sir John Cockburn, besides more rational offences, had often to examine into charges of witchcraft—a common matter of accusation at that time. Gross cruelties were inflicted and torture used to extract confessions from the so-called witches, and it is almost incredible how educated and sane men could have believed in the powers which these poor wretches were supposed to possess. It seems more than probable that partial insanity was responsible for the delusions of these necromancers, who affected to punish those who offended them, to have dealings with Satan, etc., etc. The Act against witchcraft in Scotland dates from 1563, and it is believed that the last witch was executed in Sutherlandshire as late as 1722.*

In one famous series of trials in which Sir John Cockburn figured, sorcery was combined with treason. The accused was Francis Stewart, fifth Earl of Bothwell, who must not be confounded with James Hepburn, fourth earl, his mother's brother, lately mentioned as at feud with the Justice-Clerk's father. Not only was the earl several times charged with treasonably plotting against James VI., but also with having consulted witches, with a view to the King's destruction.†

Sir John Cockburn continued as Lord Justice-Clerk till November 1623, when he must have been of great age.‡ In the Denmyln MSS. (Advocates' Library) there is a letter from Mr. Alexander Colville, Justice Depute, to Viscount Annan, dated 20th December 1622, in which he expresses his hope that, since it concerns him as Justice Depute so nearly, His Majesty might be prepared at any time to appoint another Lord Justice-Clerk. Mr. Colville begins his letter by remarking that 'he who is presently Justice Clerk is so afflicted with extreme age, blindness, and other infir-

* *Justiciary Records*, vol. i.

† Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, *passim*.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. iii. p. 558.

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mities that he is altogether disabled either to walk abroad or to discharge his place; and by all appearance is not long to survive.* One is led to think that Mr. Alexander Colville, the Justice Depute, rather expected to have the Lord Justice Clerkship conferred on himself; but in this he was disappointed, as the successor was Sir Archibald Napier of Merchiston, who gave place in 1625 to Sir George Elphinstone of Blythswood.

Incapacitated and shelved in 1622 by reason of his 'extreme age and other infirmities,' Sir John Cockburn lingered another four years, dying on 12th October 1626.†

Cockburn's first wife was Joneta, daughter of Alexander Home of Manderston and sister of George Home, Earl of Dunbar. By her he had a large family:—

John, of whom hereafter.

James, who with his elder brother must have been the source of considerable distress to their eminent father, being, it was alleged, 'greatly subject to drunkenness and companionry.'‡ In July 1611 they were both 'committed to ward for making a tumult while the Lords of Privy Council were sitting in Council yesterday, July 7th, on one side, while Moneypenny of Pilrig, John, son of Alex Elphinston, and Alex Drummond, son of Sir John Drummond, made a very great commotion and with drawn swords pursued one another for their lives.' James married Alison Hamilton,§ but apparently had no issue.

Alison, who in 1591 married, as his first wife, Andrew Edmonstoun, eldest son of Sir John Edmonstoun of that Ilk.|| Andrew Edmonstoun married, secondly, Marie

* Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, p. 595.

† *Edin. Tests*.

‡ *Staggering State of the Scots Statesmen*.

§ *Acts and Decrees*, vol. cccclxx., 1634.

|| *Scott Deeds*, vol. xxxix. No. 239.

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Gordon, by whom he had a daughter Marie, who became the wife of Sir James Cockburn of Ryslaw.

Margaret, who about 1609 married Patrick, eighth Lord Sinclair.* Her son John, ninth Lord Sinclair, had an only child, Catharine, who married her cousin John Sinclair of Herdmanston, and their son Henry, tenth Lord Sinclair, allied himself to another branch of the Cockburn family by marrying Grizel, daughter of Sir James Cockburn of that Ilk, Baronet.

Katherine, who about 1622 married Sir James McGill of Cranstoun Riddell.† In 1647, soon after her death, he was created Lord Oxfuird.

Sybilla, who in 1630 married William Innes of Sandy-side.‡

Mariota or Marion, who married her cousin William Cockburn of Vogrie.

Agnes, who married William Broun of Brouns Bank, in the parish of Ayton.§

The Lord Justice-Clerk married, secondly, Elizabeth Bellenden, half-sister of his predecessor in office and widow of Sir John Lawson of Humbie. She bore him two daughters: Barbara and Sarah. It is also very probable that the last four daughters above ascribed to Joneta Home were the children of Elizabeth Bellenden.

JOHN COCKBURN, the judge's eldest son, died in his father's lifetime. He had married Elizabeth Lawson, the daughter of his stepmother; and it is worthy of note that about a hundred years later a similar case occurred in the same family, Adam Cockburn, Lord Ormiston, marrying Anne, Lady Inglis, whose son, Sir John Inglis, married Jean, Lord Ormiston's daughter. This Elizabeth Lawson had a very

* *Scots Peerage*, ed. Balfour Paul.

† *Hay Deeds*, June 1630.

‡ *Ibid.*

§ *Ibid.*, Dec. 1631.

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sensational end. In January 1630 one Alexander Hamilton, a so-called warlock or wizard, was convicted of sorcery, and sentenced to be worried at a stake and burnt. Among his victims was Elizabeth Lawson, Lady Ormiston, the younger.* It was alleged that she had incurred Hamilton's displeasure by refusing alms, and that he had accordingly, with two witches, raised the devil, who appeared like a man in grey in Salton Wood, and bewitched the lady so that she and her eldest daughter soon afterwards died.†

Besides daughters, whose existence is implied by the above narrative, Elizabeth Lawson, the younger, bore her husband a son,

George, afterwards SIR GEORGE COCKBURN, who succeeded his grandfather as laird of Ormiston. He was officially served heir to the Justice-Clerk on 4th February 1629 in the lands of Ormiston, Westbyres, Peaston, Mannerhill, Templehall, and others.

What his particular services were which merited knight-hood one cannot say; but on 18th June 1633 the honour was conferred on him at Holyrood, on the occasion of King Charles I.'s visit to Scotland for his coronation in Edinburgh. It is probable that he lived only a few years longer; at any rate 'he died young,' having before his death parted with some of his properties, 'the barony of Peaston and a number of lands about the Lammermuirs.'‡

He married Margaret, daughter of Sir George Touris (or Towers), who had large properties in the vicinity of Edinburgh, Inverleith, Dalry, Garmilton (in East Lothian), etc., and by her had John, his eldest son, who succeeded him;

* From her description as Lady Ormiston it would be natural to conclude that the unfortunate lady was Elizabeth Lawson, the mother; but as she is further described as 'the younger' it is obvious that the daughter is referred to, though, of course, it was incorrect to call the latter Lady Ormiston.

† *Spottiswoode Miscellany*, vol. ii. p. 62. ‡ *Staggering State of the Scots Statesmen*.

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Robert, who seems to have died young; George, who became possessed of Pilton; and Jean. The three last named were 'minors' in their mother's will, which was confirmed March 1637, Lady Cockburn having died February 1636.*

George Cockburn, the second surviving son, married Mary, daughter of the Rev. John Stirling,† and by her had two sons: John and George, and two daughters: Jean, who married James Congalton of Skedsbush and had a son James Congalton, and Agnes, mentioned in the Dalrymple Deeds (1688).

In November 1662 he became possessed of the lands of Easter and Wester Pilton, in the parish of Cramond, near Edinburgh, and is frequently mentioned in various deeds, especially in connection with Ormiston, of which place he was next heir when his nephew Adam Cockburn succeeded in 1671.

It seems probable that his sons John and George married and left descendants, but this has not been proved.

JOHN COCKBURN, the eldest son, succeeded to Ormiston, and, like many of his forbears, had a short but adventurous life.

On 13th April 1648 he married Janet, daughter of Sir Adam Hepburn of Humbie, one of the Lords of Session,‡ and by her had John, his heir; Adam, who succeeded his brother; Agnes, born in February 1649§; Margaret, born in March 1650§; and Jean.

In July 1650 Oliver Cromwell invaded Scotland, and the Lowlands were once more devastated by fire and sword. The defeat of the Scots at Dunbar took place two months later, and in December the castle of Edinburgh fell into the hands of the invaders. After taking Perth, Cromwell moved south

* *Edin. Tests.*

‡ *Reg. Marr. Humbie.*

† *Reg. Deeds*, vol. xc., 1700.

§ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

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to overtake King Charles II. and his forces, leaving Monk as commander-in-chief in Scotland. Various places in Fife, Forfarshire, and Perthshire were taken by the enemy, but the culminating point was the capture on 28th August 1651 of the greater part of the Scottish 'Committee of Estates.' The seizure took place at what different writers call Eliot or Elicht, but there is no doubt that Alyth was the scene of the catastrophe. In the old records of the parish the name frequently appears as Elit, Elicht, and Eliot, and the following entry in the Session Records is sufficiently conclusive:— 'August last day 1651. This day no preaching because our Minister was taken by the English on Thursday last 28th.' The minister's name is known to have been Rattray, and in the list of the ministers captured at Elicht his name appears.

This brings us to the point which connects these events with our story, for among the captured 'Committee of Estates'* were John Cockburn of Ormiston; his father-in-law, Sir Adam Hepburn of Humbie; and his brother-in-law (Thomas?) Hepburn, with twenty-five others and nine ministers. The prisoners were straightway shipped to England,† first to Tynemouth Castle and then to London, where they were evidently somewhat unwelcome visitors; for, with those captured at Worcester, there were many thousands, and it was difficult to know what to do with them and how to feed them.‡

The three prisoners with whom this narrative is concerned, however, were not detained for very long. Seven months after their capture, on 25th March 1652, Sir Adam Hepburn petitioned the Council of State that he and his son-in-law John Cockburn 'should have liberty of the City and places within the late lines of communication on Bond of £1000 each and two sureties of £500 each.'§ There is no record

* Nicoll's *Diary*.

† Lamont's *Diary*.

‡ *Cal. State Papers*. Commonwealth Series, *passim*.

§ *Ibid.*, 1651-2, p. 193.

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whether this petition was granted or not; but its refusal would have been no very serious inconvenience to the prisoners, for on 7th July following they were given full liberty to return to Scotland.*

After his return to Ormiston we hear little of John Cockburn, and neither he nor his father-in-law, Sir Adam Hepburn, were destined to live much longer. In June 1656 Sir Adam 'departit this lyff,' as Nicoll the diarist puts it, and in May 1657 John Cockburn himself died.† Possibly the lives of both were shortened by the privations they had suffered during the early years of the Commonwealth.

On 13th April 1648 John Cockburn had married Janet, ‡ daughter, as already mentioned, of Sir Adam Hepburn of Humbie, who was one of the Lords of Session. By her he had John, his heir; Adam, who succeeded his brother; Agnes, born in February 1649§; Margaret, born in March 1650§; and Jean.

Janet Hepburn survived her husband, and married, secondly (as his second wife), Sir James Dundas of Arniston, || from which marriage the Dundases, baronets of Beechwood, are descended. She died in 1665.

JOHN COCKBURN, her eldest son, was the next laird of Ormiston, being served heir to his father on 19th October 1657. At this date he must have been quite a child, for his parents were only married in April 1648; their first child, Agnes, was born in February 1649, and Margaret, their second, in March 1650. John, therefore, cannot have been born before the beginning of 1651, but the records neither of his baptism nor of his brother Adam's have been found. At the most, he was barely out of his teens when he died, for early in 1671 he was appealing through his curators (or trustees)

* *Cal. State Papers*, p. 320. † *Lamont's Diary*.

§ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

‡ *Reg. Marr. Humbie*.
|| *Arniston Memoirs*.

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to the Privy Council, asking for an order to compel Mr. Alexander Foulis of Ratho to return to him the key of his charter chest, which had for some years been in his (Mr. Foulis's) possession*; and on 28th December of the same year

ADAM COCKBURN, his brother, was retoured heir.† He was Commissioner for the County of Haddington in 1678-81-89, and Member of Parliament in 1690. In November 1692 he was appointed Lord Justice-Clerk,‡ and about the same time was made a Privy Councillor.

When the Government resolved to appoint a commission to inquire into the circumstances of the massacre of Glencoe, the Lord Justice-Clerk was named one of the commissioners; but the small result of the inquiry brought upon all concerned the displeasure of the nation, and Adam Cockburn came in for his share.

In February 1699 he was further appointed Treasurer Deputè (Chancellor of the Exchequer), and he held both offices till the accession of Queen Anne, when he was dismissed from all his offices. Two years later, however, when he was in London he was presented to Her Majesty. Among the State papers edited by Carstares there is a curious account of the scene:—

'4th November 1704 when the Queen came from Windsor, Ormiston went to the Earl of Roxburgh and told him he was desirous to have the honour to kiss the Queen's hand, and that his Lordship would please present him, which his Lordship proffered to do. They went together and, after my Lord had been some time with Her Majesty, he called Ormiston into the Closet, where he had the honour to kiss her Majesty's hand; but not one word passed. Ormiston understands since that my Lord was at no pains to let the Queen know who

* *Reg. P. C.*, 3rd series, vol. iii. p. 295.

† *Senators of Coll. of Justice.*

‡ *Haddington Retours.*

§ *Acts Parl.*

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it was, but said, a Scots gentleman, Ormiston. Her Majesty says she was surprised; for when he came in, she knew his face, but did not know him by that name; and if she had not been under this surprise she would have given him another reception.'

Whether better or worse, the chronicler does not say!

At any rate, two months later, January 1705, Cockburn was reappointed Lord Justice-Clerk* in the room of Sir William Hamilton, Lord Whitelaw, who had died the previous month, and also succeeded him as an ordinary Lord of Session. He was succeeded in his office of Justice-Clerk by James Erskine of Grange in 1710, but he retained his place as Lord of Session till his death in 1735.

In September 1715, at the time of Mar's rebellion, secret intimation was given to Lord Ormiston that an attempt to seize Edinburgh Castle was to be made by scaling a wall at the foot of the southern rock.† He gave notice to the Deputy-Governor, Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart, and the attack was frustrated at the exact time, Sergeant Ainslie, who had been bribed into assisting from inside, being caught fixing ladders to the wall, where he was shortly afterwards hanged.

Four years later, in his anxiety to suppress the rebellion, Ormiston wrote to the Provost of Glasgow‡:—

'I have certain information from Inverness that the late Earl of Seaforth [he had been attainted] is landed near Gareloch, which is on the coast of Ross, with a good number of gentlemen and several hundred foreigners; whether another body of them may come towards Clyde we know not, but I judged it proper to give you this notice; you may send to the coast for intelligence both from Cantyre and Arran. I hope you

* *Acts Parl.*

† *Memoirs of Sir John Clerk* (Scot. Hist. Soc.).

‡ Letter, dated 19th April 1715, in H. A. C.'s possession.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

COCKBURNS OF ORMISTON

will acquaint the Government from time to time if anything of moment occurs.

‘Your most obedient humble servant

‘AD. COCKBURN.’

We gather from contemporary writers, Dr. Houston, George Lockhart, and Macky, that Lord Ormiston was always ‘most busy and very zealous in suppressing the rebellion and oppressing the rebels, so that he became hated in Scotland.’ Lockhart says he was ‘of a hot, virulent, turbulent and domineering temper,’ while Macky excuses his faults by adding that he was ‘a very fine gentleman in his person and manners, just in his dealings and hath good sense.’

In March 1679 he married Lady Susanna Hamilton, youngest daughter of John, fourth Earl of Haddington. In the *Memorials of the Earls of Haddington*, by Sir William Fraser, the household accounts of that time are printed, and these include the victuals ordered for the marriage festivities. Among the vast quantities required were 1800 oysters at 12s. a hundred, 6 salmon at 11s. apiece, 20 partridges at 8s. apiece (and these in the middle of March!), and ‘gryce’ (probably pork).

By Lady Susanna Hamilton he had four sons: John, Charles, Patrick, and Adam, of whom notice will follow, and two daughters: Christian, who married Sir John Sinclair of Longformacus, and Anne, married to Sir John Inglis of Cramond, whose widowed mother married Lord Ormiston as his second wife.

Lady Susanna Cockburn died on Sunday, 14th September 1701,* and a few years later Lord Ormiston married Anne Houston, widow first of Sir John Inglis of Cramond, secondly of Sir William Hamilton, Lord Whitelaw, who, as mentioned before, died in December 1704. She had one daughter, Jean Cockburn, born in March 1709.

* *Diary of Rev. Geo. Turnbull* (Scot. Hist. Soc.).

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Lord Ormiston was again left a widower in 1720, Sir John Clerk of Penicuik mentioning in his diary* for December of that year: 'I lost a very good friend, Lady Ormiston, my wife's mother.' Lady Clerk was Janet, daughter of Sir John Inglis of Cramond, not a Cockburn.

We hear little more of Lord Ormiston till his death, which took place on 16th April 1735, when he is said to have been in his seventy-ninth year. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. Patrick Cockburn (authoress of 'The Flowers of the Forest'), mentions him in a more kindly spirit than public, or at any rate Jacobite, opinion had done some years previously, when he was at the height of his power. In her *Autobiography* she says that she and her husband 'for four years lived with his venerable father'—that is, from their marriage until Lord Ormiston's death. Further on she adds: 'The good old man's affection for me was infinitely more pleasing than all the adulation I ever met with, and I still [after fifty years] remember it with pleasure.'

Of his sons, John, who succeeded to Ormiston, will be noticed presently.

Charles, the second son, was admitted an advocate on 17th November 1705. He married Margaret Haldane, daughter of John Haldane of Gleneagles (by his second wife Helen Erskine), and had issue: Helen, born in October 1721; Adam, born in August 1725, entered the Army, and died unmarried in Jamaica in March 1747; John, baptised 14th April 1727, and died young; George; and Charles, baptised 17th July 1730.

George, the eldest surviving son, was baptised on 15th June 1729. He married Bethia Dundas, daughter of Thomas Dundas of Fingask, in May 1766, and on succeeding to the property of his uncle, Robert Haldane of Gleneagles, took the name of Haldane.

* *Scot. Hist. Soc.*



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He was not destined, however, to carry on the line of Haldanes. He and his only son both died in the same year, 1799, when the estate of Gleneagles reverted to his first cousin Adam Duncan, first Viscount Duncan of Camperdown, the famous admiral. It is now in the possession of his descendant, the present Earl of Camperdown.

Patrick Cockburn, the third son of Lord Ormiston, was best known, perhaps, as the husband of Alison Rutherford, famous during a long life for her wit and intellect, and remembered to this day by her song, 'The Flowers of the Forest.' Born in 1713, the youngest daughter of Robert Rutherford of Fairnielee, an old Border family, she married Patrick Cockburn on 25th March 1731.* In her *Autobiography*, written in 1784, we gain considerable knowledge of their married life.* Her husband was an advocate, and may have practised, perhaps not with success, as she mentions that their income was '£150 a year and we never owed a shilling.' In 1750 the young Duke of Hamilton begged him to take charge of his estates; and they moved to Hamilton Palace, where they lived for two years, endeavouring to clear a load of debt contracted by His Grace. This dissipated Duke of Hamilton was he who married Elizabeth, the younger of the two beautiful Miss Gunnings.

Mrs. Cockburn relates that her husband had saved the duke's forfeiture of title and estates by preventing his joining the rebels in 1745.

Early in 1753 Patrick Cockburn was seized with an internal complaint, which all medicine and surgical skill proved vain to remedy. They were then living at Musselburgh, where on 29th April 1753 he died, 'after a tedious illness,' the contemporary *Scots Magazine* says.

* *Letters and Memoirs*, ed. T. Craig Brown, 1900.

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There was only one son of this marriage, Adam Cockburn, to whom the mother was deeply attached. He entered the Army, and joined the eleventh regiment of Dragoons in 1756, serving in Germany and elsewhere; but his health gave way, and he died unmarried on 22nd August 1780.

Mrs. Patrick Cockburn herself died on 22nd November 1794, in her eighty-second year.

Adam Cockburn, youngest son of Lord Ormiston and Lady Susanna Hamilton, was baptised in Edinburgh on 20th February 1696, but as no further mention of him has been found it may be concluded that he died young.

JOHN COCKBURN succeeded to Ormiston on the death of his father in 1735.* He was born in 1679, and during his father's lifetime sat as a member of the Scottish Parliament, taking an active part in the proceedings connected with the Union of Scotland and England. He afterwards represented Haddington in the Parliament of Great Britain in successive Parliaments from 1707 to 1741. He was principally distinguished, however, by his unceasing efforts to improve the agriculture of his native country, which gained him the name of the 'Father of Scottish Husbandry.'

His residence in England gave him ample opportunities of studying the improvements in agriculture which were being made there, and he was successful in introducing the new ideas into the Lothians.†

As leases in Scotland had always been of short duration, the farmers would do little to improve the land. John Cockburn, by granting leases of thirty-eight years and upwards, encouraged his tenants to improve their holdings to their utmost extent.

* *Letters to His Gardener* (Scot. Hist. Soc.).

† *New Statist. Acc.*, etc., etc.



JOHN COCKBURN OF ORMISTON

(From the collection of the National Portrait Gallery, London)

COCKBURNS OF ORMISTON

His *Letters to His Gardener*, from 1727 to 1744, published by the Scottish History Society, give ample proof of his anxiety to do the best for his tenants, and his efforts earned him a name which has been handed down with respect in the parish.

From a letter from his father to William Carstares in 1699 we learn that John Cockburn had fallen in love 'with Carmichael's daughter.' This was Lady Beatrice Carmichael, daughter of the first Earl of Hyndford, and the marriage took place in 1700.* They had no children; and after her death John Cockburn married Arabella Rowe, daughter of Antony Rowe of Muswell Hill, Oxon. Her two sisters married the first Viscount Hillsboro', and George, fifth Lord Forrester, respectively.

By Arabella Rowe, Cockburn had one son, George Cockburn, of whom more presently. She died at Bath in January 1744, the 'wife of the Laird of Ormiston, one of the Lords of the Admiralty,' the contemporary *Scots Magazine* announces.

John Cockburn at that date retired from public life, and seems to have busied himself with rebuilding the house of Ormiston.† Within three years, however, he found himself obliged to part with his ancestral home, and sold the property in December 1747 to John, second Earl of Hopetoun, whose father Charles, first Earl of Hopetoun, was his first cousin, their mothers having been sisters, daughters of the Earl of Haddington.

It must have caused John Cockburn unbounded sorrow to find himself obliged for pecuniary reasons to sever his connection with the estate, which had been in his family since 1368, and which by his untiring efforts was probably in a more flourishing condition, agriculturally, than ever before.

His remaining years seem to have been spent at his son's

* *Scots Peerage*, ed. Balfour Paul.

† *Letters to His Gardener*.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

house at the Navy Office in London, and he died there in November 1758.*

CAPTAIN GEORGE COCKBURN, only son of John Cockburn, was the first of his line since 1368 whose succession to the headship of the house brought with it no landed property.

He was in the Navy, and held various posts in that service. In 1744 he married Caroline, eldest daughter of George, fifth Lord Forrester. She was his first cousin, their mothers having been sisters.

His wife eventually became Baroness Forrester in her own right, and had two daughters: Anna Maria Cockburn, born in August 1745, and Mary, born in March 1746.† The elder succeeded her mother as Baroness Forrester, but died unmarried in 1808, and the younger married the Rev. Charles Shuttleworth, but died without issue.

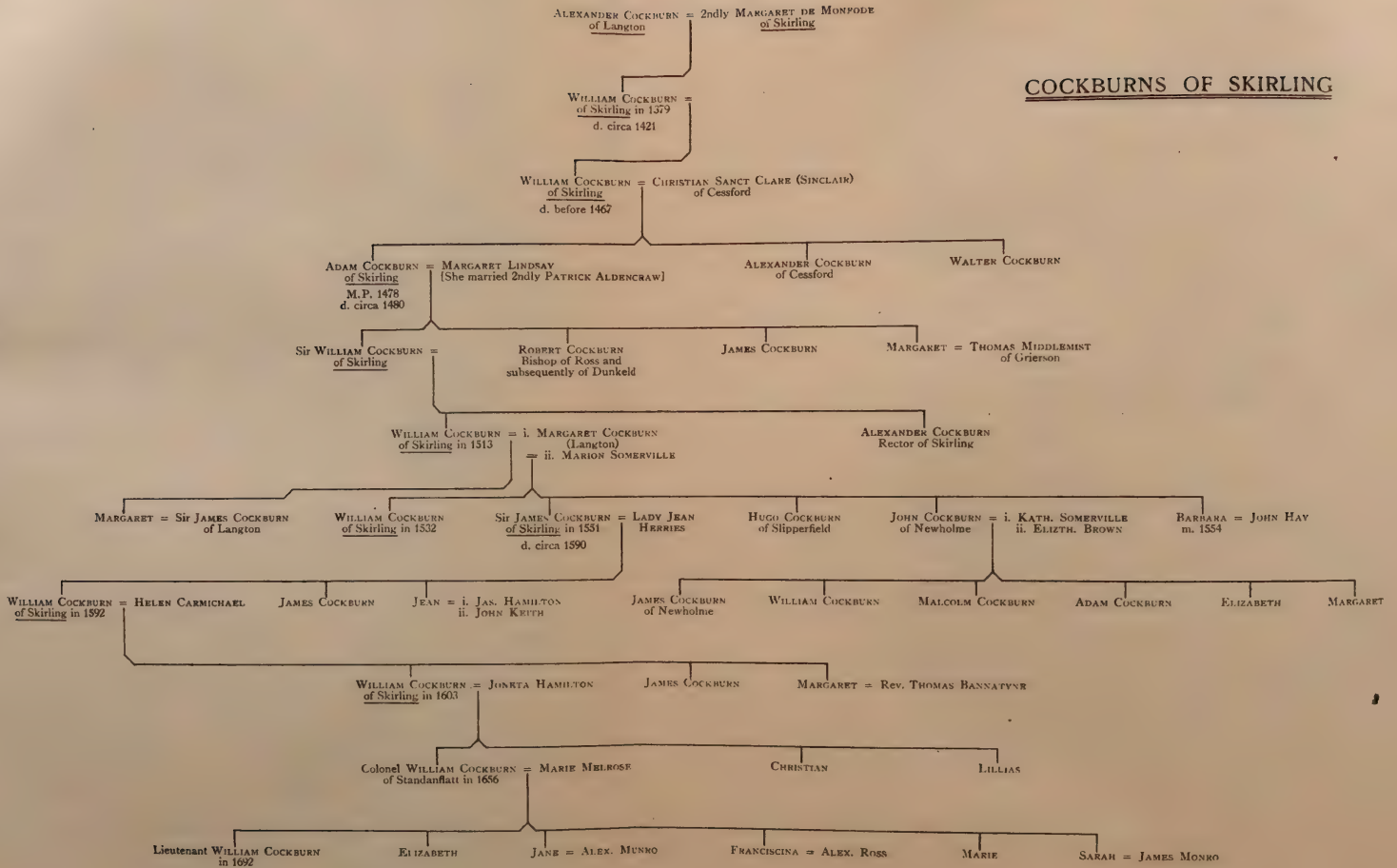
Captain George Cockburn during his later years lived apparently in England, and died at Brighton, a Comptroller of the Navy, on 23rd July 1770. His widow, Baroness Forrester, died in 1784.

So ended the long line of Cockburns of Ormiston. It is probable, however, that some of the younger sons of various lairds left descendants whom we have been unable to trace. The grandchildren of Adam Cockburn, Lord Ormiston, certainly left no issue, and his elder brother died unmarried. But his father's brother, George Cockburn 'of Pilton,' left two sons, concerning whom nothing has been found; and James Cockburn and Christian Hamilton, described in 1633 as his widow, may possibly have left issue—to mention a few for whom search might be made by any one interested.

* *Scots Mag.*

† *Ormiston Reg. Bapt.*

COCKBURNS OF SKIRLING



COCKBURNS OF SKIRLING

THE origin of the Cockburns of Skirling, a property on the western boundaries of Peeblesshire, comprised in a small parish of the same name, is easily defined; and although the main line is long ago extinct, the family held the lands for about three hundred years, and many of its members were prominent men in their time.

Alexander Cockburn of Langton married as his second wife, about 1365, Margaret, daughter of Sir John de Monfode of Skirling and Braidwood. She was at that time widow of John de Cragie, by whom she had had a son John, who died in his father's lifetime, and a daughter Margaret, who married Sir John Stewart. By her second husband she had two sons: William and Edward Cockburn.

For some years there was a dispute as to whether Skirling should belong to her daughter Margaret de Cragie, Lady Stewart, or to her son William Cockburn; but in 1379 it was finally decided* that the heir should be William Cockburn, who had a charter of the lands from King Robert II. 'in as ample a form as King Robert the Bruce had granted them to his grandfather Sir John Monfode.'† Failing his heirs, the property was to descend to his brother Edward; whom failing, to his sister Agnes.†

WILLIAM COCKBURN, thus confirmed laird of Skirling, was granted‡ an annuity of £10 by King Robert III. for services rendered or to be rendered to him and to James Stewart, Earl of Carrick (afterwards James I.), as is shown by the account rendered by the bailies of Haddington to the Exchequer for the year 1405. The last payment of this annuity was made in 1422, when Sir William was already dead.§ He was 'Custumar' of Haddington; but in July 1413 he was represented at the audit by a deputy, he himself being

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. i. p. 144.

† *Origines Paroch.*, vol. i. p. 184.

‡ *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. iii. p. 635.

§ *Ibid.*, vol. iv. p. 369.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

absent in England, with other Scotsmen of influence, for the purpose of negotiating the release of King James I.

WILLIAM COCKBURN, the next heir, succeeded his father about 1421. He married Christian, daughter of Sir Walter Sant Clare (Sinclair) of Cessford Castle, Co. Roxburgh, and by her he had Adam, his heir; Alexander Cockburn, afterwards of Cessford; and Walter, who was witness to a charter in 1467.* By that date William Cockburn was dead, and

ADAM COCKBURN, his eldest son, had become owner of Skirling. This laird married Margaret, daughter of Lord Lindsay, and by her he had William, his heir; Robert, Bishop first of Ross, then of Dunkeld; James, mentioned as brother of Sir William in 1498†; and a daughter Margaret, who married Thomas Middlemist of Grierson.

Adam Cockburn had sasine of Skirling in 1461,‡ and his name appears in the first list of Scottish Members of Parliament§—*i.e.* in June 1478. He died probably about 1480,|| and his widow Margaret Lindsay married, secondly, Patrick Auldincraw.

SIR WILLIAM COCKBURN is first heard of as laird of Skirling in 1481.¶ Ten years later disputes had arisen between him and his brother-in-law, Thomas Middlemist of Grierson.** In 1493 he sold the barony and lands of Cessford to Walter Ker, the charter being confirmed by King James IV.

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 926.

† Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. p. 26.

‡ *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. ix. p. 667.

§ Henry, *Hist. of Great Britain*, vol. ix. p. 329.

|| *Acta Dom. Con.*

¶ *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. ix. p. 681.

** *Origines Paroch.*, vol. i. p. 184; *Acta Dom. Con.*, p. 285.

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on 13th March.* Who his wife was we do not know, but he had a son William, who succeeded him. Alexander, who was Rector of Skirling and a witness to a charter dated at Haddington in October 1521,† was also probably his son. Sir William must have been of a quarrelsome disposition, for besides the disputes with his brother-in-law mentioned above, we find him in the clutches of the law twice in 1498.‡ Again, in 1513 he was ordered to restore a quantity of goods which he had seized from one Matthew Campbell.§

WILLIAM COCKBURN, the next owner of Skirling, of which estate he had sasine in 1513,|| married first, in 1511, Margaret, daughter of his kinsman, Sir William Cockburn of Langton. She was a maid of honour to the Queen (Margaret of Lorraine), and on her marriage the King granted her certain lands in Perthshire as dowry.¶ By Margaret Cockburn he had a daughter, also named Margaret, who married her first cousin, Sir James Cockburn of Langton, as his second wife.

William Cockburn married, secondly, Marion Somerville, by whom he had William, his heir; James, who succeeded his brother William; Hugh of Slipperfield and portioner of

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 3611.

† *Ibid.*, vol. iii. No. 1962.

‡ Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. pp. 25, 26. 'Sir William Cokburne of Scraling, knight, came into the King's will for art and part of the Stouthreif of a lance from a certain man of the Earl of Angus; which had been his own lance and was previously stolen by the said man from his servant, the same day.' Again: 'Sir William Cokburne of Scraling knt., James his brother, and John Pattonson, in Kingildurris, produced a remission for art and part of the slaughter of Walter Twedy, son of John Twedy of Drava, in Peblis: Item, for art and part of Stouthreif of a sword and shield from the said Walter, at the same time: Item, the said William and James, for forethought felony done to Andrew Twedy, within the town of Edinburgh, during the time of Parliament; and for mutilating him, —Sir William became surety to satisfy the parties.'

§ *Origines Paroch.*, vol. i. pp. 184, 185.

|| *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. xiv. p. 538.

¶ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 3611.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Kirkurde; and John of Newholme; besides a daughter Barbara, who married John Hay, second son of George Hay of Menzane, in 1554.* Of Hugh little is known, but John of Newholme, his younger brother, married Katharine Somerville, and had a son James, afterwards of Newholme. He (John) married, secondly, Elizabeth Brown, by whom he had William, Malcolm, and Adam, besides two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, married respectively to John Geddes, portioner of Kirkurde, and to Alexander Somerville, minister of Dolphinton.

William Cockburn would seem to have died before 1532, for it was more probably his son who was referred to when, in that year,

WILLIAM COCKBURN of Skirling was granted by the King leave of absence from public duties, 'as he is under deadly feud with our Borderers so that he may not come and remain away without danger of his life,' provided that he 'finds and furnishes his brother' (this would be James, afterwards of Skirling) 'and household sufficiently to do us service.'†

For some reason or other it was not till 1546 that he had sasine of Skirling,‡ and five years later he died. It seems improbable that he was married, for in his will he makes no mention of a wife, and his brother James succeeded to Skirling; but he had a natural son William, who was granted Letters of Legitimacy by Queen Mary in April 1550,§ which, however, did not entitle him to succeed to the property; he had to be content with a legacy of four hundred merks.||

Besides this legitimised son, he mentions in his will his

* *Acts and Decrees*, vol. x. p. 184.

† *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. ix. fol. 168.

‡ *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. xviii. p. 401.

§ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 450.

|| *Glasgow Tests*.

COCKBURNS OF SKIRLING

mother Marion Somerville, and his brothers James, Hugh, and John, to each of whom he left certain sums of money. The will is interesting from the fact that it is the earliest extant testament in Scotland of any Cockburn.

SIR JAMES COCKBURN succeeded his brother in Skirling, being retoured heir in 1551.* He took a prominent part in the troublous politics of his time, and was a faithful adherent of the persecuted Queen. He was one of the jury at the trial of Rizzio's murderers.† Later on, however, he was himself suspected of assisting in the 'treasonable murder' of the King, Darnley, and he and others had to undergo a trial in Edinburgh in August 1567 for this 'and divers other wicked crimes and enormities committed by him to the great slander of this realm.'‡

Some months later, in June 1568, the 'place of Skirling' was blown up and demolished by James, Earl of Moray, the Regent, the Earl of Morton, and Lord Home, who took with them from Edinburgh 'three pieces of Artillery and men of war' (*i.e.* soldiers).§ According to the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, the castle was never rebuilt, and the family, in succeeding generations, inhabited a house in the village of Skirling. No trace of the castle exists nowadays.

Sir James of Skirling is constantly mentioned in contemporary records, and it is possible that he was with his brother-in-law John, Lord Herries, when the latter accompanied Queen Mary after the battle of Langside to Dundrennan Abbey, and thence into England.

* *Peebles Retours*, 1551.

† Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. pp. 479, 480. According to a brief chronicle of events at this time printed by Pitcairn, Sir William Cockburne of Skirling, knight, was in charge of Edinburgh Castle from 8th March to 22nd April 1567. 'William' must have been written in error for 'James.'

‡ *Reg. P. C.*, vol. i. p. 527.

§ *Diurnal of Occurrents* (Maitland Club).

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Sir James, who died about 1590, had in 1552 married Jane Herries, one of the three daughters of the late William, Lord Herries. By her he had William, his heir; James*; and a daughter Jean, who was married, first, to James Hamilton of Libberton, in the parish of Carnwath, Lanarkshire, and, secondly, to John Keith of Ravenscraig.†

WILLIAM COCKBURN, the next laird, is first heard of in July 1586, when the King granted to him and to Helen Carmichael, his future wife, certain lands in Haddington, besides the lands of Skirling, which were resigned in his favour by his father, Sir James, to whom, however, the life-rent of the barony was reserved.‡

In 1592 King James VI. granted that, 'in consideration of the good and thankful service done to His Majesty and umquhile our dearest mother, by umquhile Sir James Cockburn father to William Cockburn now of Skirling,' the town of Skirling should be erected into a burgh of barony. This brought various privileges with it, such as the holding of markets and fairs.§

Helen Carmichael, his wife, was daughter of Sir John Carmichael and Lady Margaret Douglas, daughter of Sir George Douglas of Pittendreich and sister of James Douglas, Earl of Morton, Regent of Scotland in 1572. They had two sons, William and James, and a daughter Margaret. James only appears as witness to the marriage contract of his sister Margaret in 1614, when she became the wife of Thomas Bannatyne, minister of North Berwick.||

This laird must have died comparatively young, as his eldest son,

* *Reg. Privy Seal*, Dec. 1592.

† *Scott Deeds*, vol. xxvi. No. 109; *Acts and Deceets*, vol. cxxx. fol. 178.

‡ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. v. No. 1005.

§ *Acta Parl.*, June 1592, c. 84.

|| *Gibson Deeds*.

COCKBURNS OF SKIRLING

WILLIAM COCKBURN, was retoured his heir in December 1603.* Two months later he married Joneta or Jean, daughter of James Hamilton of Libberton, the contract being dated 3rd February 1604.† They were first cousins, his father and her mother being brother and sister. By her he had a son William, and two daughters, Christian and Lillias, the former of whom died in 1657.

This laird fell on evil times, insomuch that he found himself obliged to part with his property; and in July 1621 he sold the lands comprising the barony of Skirling to Alexander Peiblis, advocate. The charter,‡ confirmed by King Charles I., explains more fully the privileges which had been granted by the erection twenty-nine years previously of Skirling into a burgh of barony—viz. for the laird (Alexander Peiblis) to make bailies, burgesses, etc.; to hold a court and have a market cross, and to hold a weekly market on Fridays, with a fair yearly on 4th September and three days following.

Nine years later, May 1630, William Cockburn (late of Skirling) was for some reason or other retoured heir to various bygone ancestors. This record is particularly interesting, for it proves the foregoing pedigree to be perfectly correct. Mr. Hood in his *House of Cockburn* mentions this 'retour,' but asserts that it is wrong, or rather that some names had been transposed, presumably because it did not quite agree with his conception of the pedigree.

There are four separate records of 'retour,' which are to be found in the *Inquisitiones Generales*. In the first place, he is retoured heir to Walter Sinclair, the father of the grandmother of his great-great-grandfather; in another to Adam Cockburn of Skirling, his great-great-great-grandfather. The relationship in each case is, of course, expressed in Latin,

* *Peebles Retours*.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. vii. No. 746.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. viii. No. 201.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

and it may be as well to give here details of the Latin words, their meaning, and the persons in each case referred to, in different columns.

Starting with William Cockburn, late of Skirling, in 1630, we have:—

<i>Pater</i>	. father	William Cockburn of Skirling.
<i>avus</i>	. grandfather	Sir James Cockburn of Skirling.
<i>pro-avus</i>	. gt.-grandfather	William Cockburn of Skirling.
<i>abavus</i>	. gt.-gt.-grandfather	Sir William Cockburn of Skirling.
<i>atavus</i>	. gt.-gt.-gt.-grandfather	Adam Cockburn of Skirling.

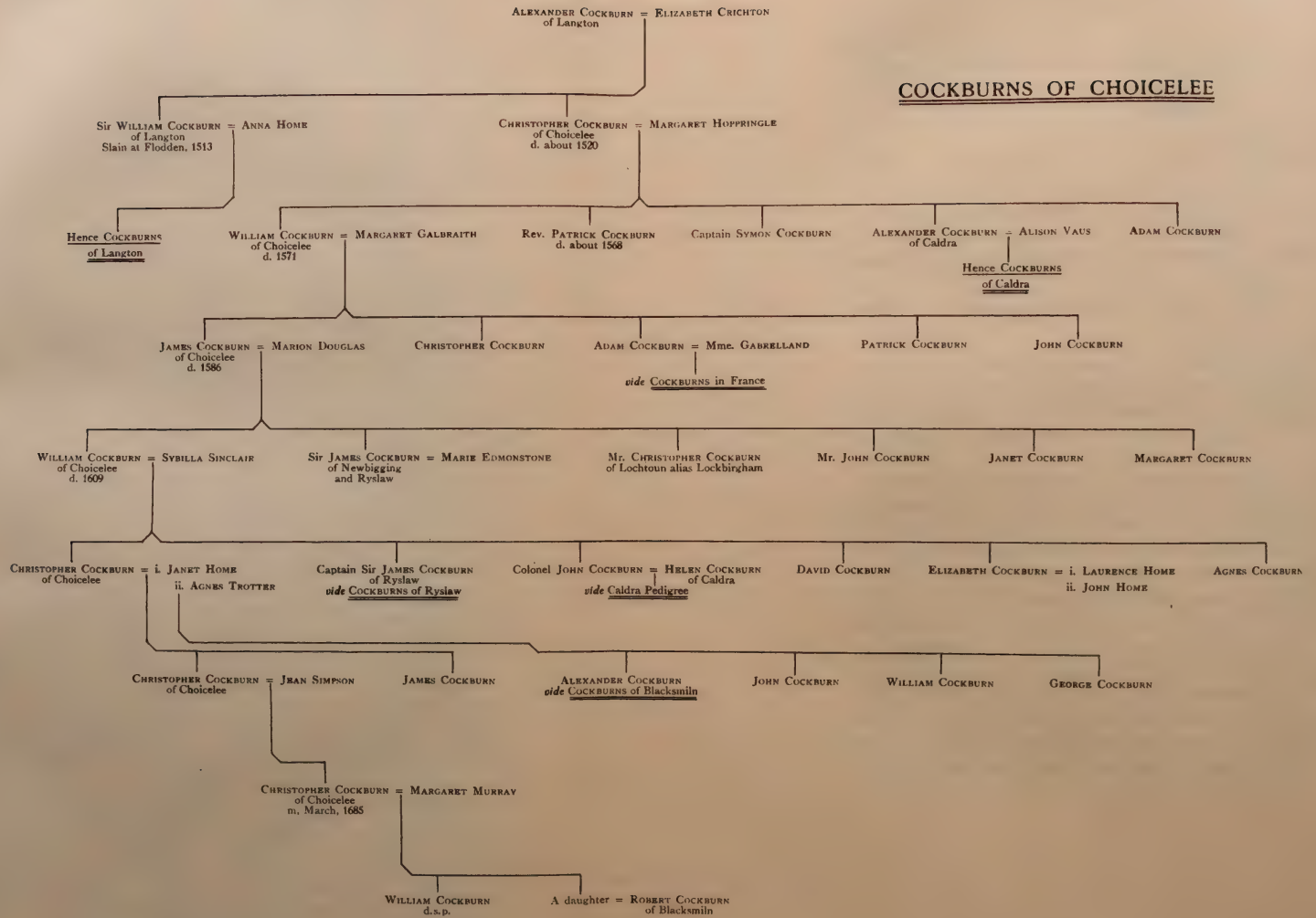
Adam Cockburn, as we have shown, was son of William Cockburn and Christian Sinclair, daughter of Walter Sinclair of Cessford. It will thus be seen that these retours and the pedigree as here given are in perfect agreement.

WILLIAM COCKBURN, son of the late laird of Skirling, was designated of Stonyflatt or Standanflatt, in the parish of Newbattle, of which place he had sasine in 1656.* His wife was Marie Melrose, and by her he had a son William and five daughters—viz. Elizabeth; Jane, who married Alexander Munro of Arduzie; Franciscina, married to Alexander Ross of Pithern; Marie; and Sarah, married to James Monro on 15th April 1686. This William Cockburn is called 'Colonel' when his son William was retoured his heir in 1692 to Standanflatt and some lands near Dolphinton.† What became of the son, who is called lieutenant, we are unable to say; if he died unmarried he was the last of a long line covering a period of some three hundred and fifty years.

* *Parl. Reg. Sasines*, Edin.

† *Lanark Retours*; *Edin. Retours*.

COCKBURNS OF CHOICELEE



COCKBURNS OF CHOICELEE

THERE are two different accounts of the parentage of the first Cockburn of Choicelee, but the historical value of one of these statements is so much greater than that of the other that there is little doubt as to which should be accepted. In the register of the Great Seal for the year 1603,* wherein a charter of a hundred years earlier is confirmed, it is stated that CHRISTOPHER COCKBURN was the brother of that Sir William Cockburn of Langton who fell at Flodden, and therefore a younger son of Alexander Cockburn of Langton and Elizabeth Crichton. The register for 1664, on the other hand, calls Christopher the son 'of a nobleman Sir William Cockburn knight of Langton.'† But this entry, besides being sixty years later than the other, is from a document belonging to a class notoriously inaccurate—the 'birth-brief' of a French Cockburn, Edmond Cockburn, Baron de Villeneuve. It may be taken as certain, therefore, that Christopher Cockburn was the son of Alexander and not of Sir William; it is, at all events, beyond question that he was a cadet of Langton.

The lands of Choicelee, indeed, were originally part of the barony of Langton, and are stated to have been bought by Christopher from his brother William in 1504 for a fee-farm rent of £10.* Beyond this transaction there is nothing to be told of the first laird of Choicelee, except that he died about 1520,‡ and is said to have married 'Margaret Hoppringle lawful daughter of Sir [sic] Hoppringle of that Ilk.' For this alliance we have only the evidence of a document already shown to be of doubtful value.† There is, on the other hand, no special reason for discrediting it.

Whomsoever he married, Christopher Cockburn had five sons§: William, his heir; Patrick, of whom more anon;

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. vi. No. 1475.

† *Paper Reg. Great Seal*, vols. v. and vi. No. 397.

‡ *Laing Charters*, Nos. 319 and 347.

§ *Will of Patrick C.*; *Edin. Tests.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Symon, Adam, and Alexander, who as founder of the Cockburns of Caldra demands separate notice. All that is known of Symon is that he had a son James, burghess of Haddington, who is mentioned in his father's will and in that of his uncle, William of Choicelee*; but about that time there were several James Cockburns in Haddington, and it is difficult to distinguish their descendants. Adam, the fourth son, is equally shadowy; he was dead in 1565 when his brother Patrick made his will, and he had a son of the same name as himself.

Of Patrick there is considerably more to relate. He was educated at St. Andrews, and completed his studies in Paris, where, attaining great excellence in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew, he became Professor of Oriental Languages. Eventually, however, he returned to Scotland, becoming Prebendary of the College Kirk of Dunbar, and in 1552 James Stewart, Commendator of the Priory of St. Andrews, granted him a pension of £50 a year from the rents of the kirk of Leuchars.† He was at one time 'parson of Petcokkis' (now called Stenton) in East Lothian, and became first Protestant minister of Haddington after the Reformation.

At various dates he published in Paris, St. Andrews, and London books of a devotional character, which are occasionally to be met with in the saleroom and in second-hand booksellers' lists.

A copy of one of his works, *De Vulgari Sacræ Scripturæ Pbrasi*, in possession of the present Sir Robert Cockburn, baronet, has on the fly-leaf the following note by George Chalmers, the celebrated Scottish antiquary:—

'1548 July 9th the author of this work Patrick Cockburn Parson of Petcoks, in East Lothian, was one of the attendants licenced to go to France with James Commendator of St. Andrews, to whom this book is

* *Edin. Tests.*

† *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. xxxii. fol. 34.

COCKBURNS OF CHOICELEE

dedicated, afterwards Earl of Moray and Regent of Scotland.'

His first two volumes were published in Paris in 1551 and 1552, and from another source* it appears that he was 'in France' (probably Paris) in May 1558. Now in April of that year Mary Queen of Scots married her first husband, the Dauphin of France; James Stewart, Commendator of St. Andrews, witnessed the marriage; and, seeing that the commendator was Patrick's friend, it is more than likely that Patrick was also present. He may even have assisted at the ceremony.

In March 1568, shortly before his death, he granted to his brother Alexander Cockburn (of Caldra) and his wife Alison Vaus certain lands near Dunbar.† His will‡ is interesting if only from the fact that it is the second earliest Cockburn will on record; and he was good enough to mention in it a number of his relatives, such as his brother William of Choicelee (and his second son Patrick), his brother Symon (and his son James), his deceased brother Adam (and his son Adam), and his other brother Alexander of Caldra.

As his father Christopher's heir, WILLIAM COCKBURN had sasine of the lands of Choicelee from King James v. and from his cousin James Cockburn of Langton in March 1525,§ and fourteen years later Sir William Richardson, Vicar of the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert of Langton, granted to William Cockburn and his wife Margaret Galbraith the lands of Gretrig, Vicars Croft, and others in the barony of Langton.||

Who Margaret Galbraith was we cannot say. When her great-grandson Edmond, Baron de Villeneuve, obtained in

* *Protocol Book of John Guthrie, N.P.*, 1558.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 2979.

§ *Laing Charters*, No. 348.

‡ *Edin. Tests.*

|| *Ibid.*, No. 434.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

1664 his 'birth-brief' mentioned above, she was described as 'daughter of Baron Kilkeith in Lennox,' a title which seemingly emanated from the imagination of some Franco-Scottish genealogist. This statement is only equalled by that of the Frenchman who in later years compiled a pedigree of this family and dubbed William 'Marquis de Choiselee'! From various sources we know that there were about that time Galbraiths of Kilcreuch* (sometimes spelt Culcreuch) in Lennox (a district which is now part of Stirlingshire), and it is possible that she was connected with that family, but no Baron Kilcreuch or Kilkeith ever existed. It would not, however, be unnatural for a Frenchman to suppose that the laird of a Scots barony should be styled baron.

Margaret was undoubtedly related to Robert Galbraith, a judge who was assassinated in 1543 by one John Carkettle, for William Cockburn of Choiselee (her husband) and their sons, together with Alexander Galbraith, son of Adam and nephew of Robert, obtained 'ane decret' from the Lords of Council† against John Carkettle for the sum of two thousand merks for the 'cruel slaughter' of the said Robert.

William Cockburn and Margaret had five sons: James, the heir, Christopher, Adam, Patrick, and John. James and Patrick, however, were the only two mentioned in his will in 1571, so it is probable that the others were no longer alive. Adam is known to have gone to France,‡ where he entered the Scots bodyguard of the French King, and, marrying Madame Gabrelands, became ancestor of the Barons de Villeneuve, who are dealt with in a subsequent chapter.

It is rather strange that so little is heard of William of Choiselee. He lived in a stirring period of Scottish history;

* Balfour's *Annals*; Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, etc.

† *Protocol Book of John Guthrie, N.P.*, 1558.

‡ *Paper Reg. Great Seal*, vols. v. and vi. No. 397.

COCKBURNS OF CHOICELEE

but he seems to have played no part in those events, which had so much effect on the fortunes of his cousin of Langton and his kinsman of Ormiston. He died in March 1571.*

JAMES COCKBURN, his eldest son, succeeded to Choicelee, sasine being granted to him by Sir James Cockburn of Langton on 14th April 1571, when his uncle, Captain Symon Cockburn, was one of the witnesses.† He died at Dalkeith on 22nd July 1586. It seems probable that he was, either permanently or for a time, a man of delicate health, for 'calling to mind the fragility of man,' he had made his will some fifteen years before his death. He married Marion Douglas, daughter of John Douglas, bailie of Langton, by whom he had a large family. Her initials, 'M. D.,' are to be seen to this day carved on the stones of the bridge crossing the Blackadder near Fogo in Berwickshire, together with those of her husband, 'J. C.,' above the arms of their son, Sir James Cockburn of Ryslaw (and his wife Marie Edmonstone), who evidently had the bridge built in 1641 (see p. 26).

By her James Cockburn of Choicelee had William, his heir; James, afterwards Sir James Cockburn of Ryslaw‡; Christopher; John; and two daughters, Janet and Margaret, whom he mentions in his will.§ Of Christopher and John we know nothing, except that they were educated in the University of Edinburgh, whence they graduated Masters of Art in 1592.||

WILLIAM COCKBURN, the eldest son, was retoured heir to the various lands which were comprised in Choicelee in February 1598.¶ Little else is heard of him, except for one not very creditable incident, which is graphically recorded in

* *Edin. Tests.*

† See that family.

‡ David Laing's *Catalogue of Graduates.*

¶ *Berwickshire Retours*, No. 15.

† *Laing Charters*, No. 858.

§ *Edin. Tests.*

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the registers of the Privy Council. It appears that within eighteen months of his father's death William and his mother Marion had seized the glebe lands of Langton and ousted the vicar, Mr. William Methven. The latter having taken action, and 'being likely to prevail,' made complaint to the Privy Council in February 1588 that these persons (Cockburn and his mother) 'had conceived a deadlie hatred' against him, 'minassing' (menacing, threatening) 'sindrie tymes to take his lyffe.' At the instigation of his adversaries, Mark Ker and William Ker had waylaid him between the kirk of Langton and Fogo, 'and thair maist cruellie and unmercifullie pursued him for his bodily harm and slaughter, wounded him in divers parts to the effusion of his blude in grite quantitie'!

William Cockburn died in July 1609. He married Sybilla, daughter of Matthew Sinclair of Longformacus (and Elizabeth Swinton, his wife), who died a little more than three years before him. By her he had Christopher, his heir; James, who became Captain Sir James of Ryslaw*; John, who married Helen Cockburn, heiress of Caldra, and will be dealt with in a subsequent chapter; David; Elizabeth and Agnes. David is merely mentioned in December 1658† as brother of the deceased Christopher of Choicelee. His sister Elizabeth was married twice: first, to one Lawrence, eldest son of Ninian Home,‡ by whom she had a son James; and secondly, in December 1627 to John Home, Provost of Dun-glas.§ Agnes, her sister, we only find mentioned by name in her mother's will.||

CHRISTOPHER COCKBURN succeeded to Choicelee on his father's death, sasine being granted to him on 12th August

* See that family.

† *Acts and Decreeets*, vol. ccccliii.

‡ *Berwickshire Sasines*, April 1620.

§ *Acts and Decreeets*, vols. ccccxxiv. and ccccxxvii., 1629.

|| *Edin. Tests*, June 1606.

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1611 'at the fortalice of Chouslie,' his uncles James, Christopher, and John being witnesses.*

He married Janet, daughter of Sir Patrick Home of Polwarth† (grandfather of the first Earl of Marchmont), by whom he had two sons: Christopher and James. She died in December 1632,‡ and Christopher married, as his second wife, Agnes Trotter,§ by whom he had Alexander, John, William, and George.

Christopher, the eldest son of the first marriage, succeeded his father, and his brother James is merely mentioned by name in different records.|| He may have married and left descendants, but we have been unable to trace him further.

Alexander, eldest son of the second marriage,¶ became proprietor of Blacksmiln, and will be dealt with presently; whilst John, William, and George are, like their half-brother James, only mentioned in a few deeds, etc.**

Of CHRISTOPHER, the eldest son and successor to Choicelee, the story is equally brief. Nothing is known of him but that he married, at some date prior to April 1668, one Jean Simpson,†† and had by her an only son Christopher.‡‡

This last-named CHRISTOPHER succeeded and married in March 1685 Margaret Murray,§§ daughter of Sir William Murray of Dreghorn, a cadet of the Abercairney family, who was Master of the Works to King Charles II.*** Christopher and Margaret had two children only: William Cockburn,¶¶ who died unmarried, and a daughter, who married her cousin Robert of the Blacksmiln family.||||

* *Laing Charters*, No. 1618.

† *Will*, Aug. 1633.

‡ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*; *Scott Deeds*, July 1640.

** *Privy Seal*, July 1662, etc.

†† *Mackenzie Deeds*, 11th Feb. 1701.

§§ *Durie Deeds*, vol. clv., Feb. 1719.

¶¶ *Services of Heirs*, vol. xiii. Jan. 1754.

† *Scots Peerage*, ed. Balfour Paul.

§ *Hay Deeds*, 6th March 1643.

¶ *Hay Deeds*, 6th March 1643.

†† *Durie Deeds*, 6th March 1670.

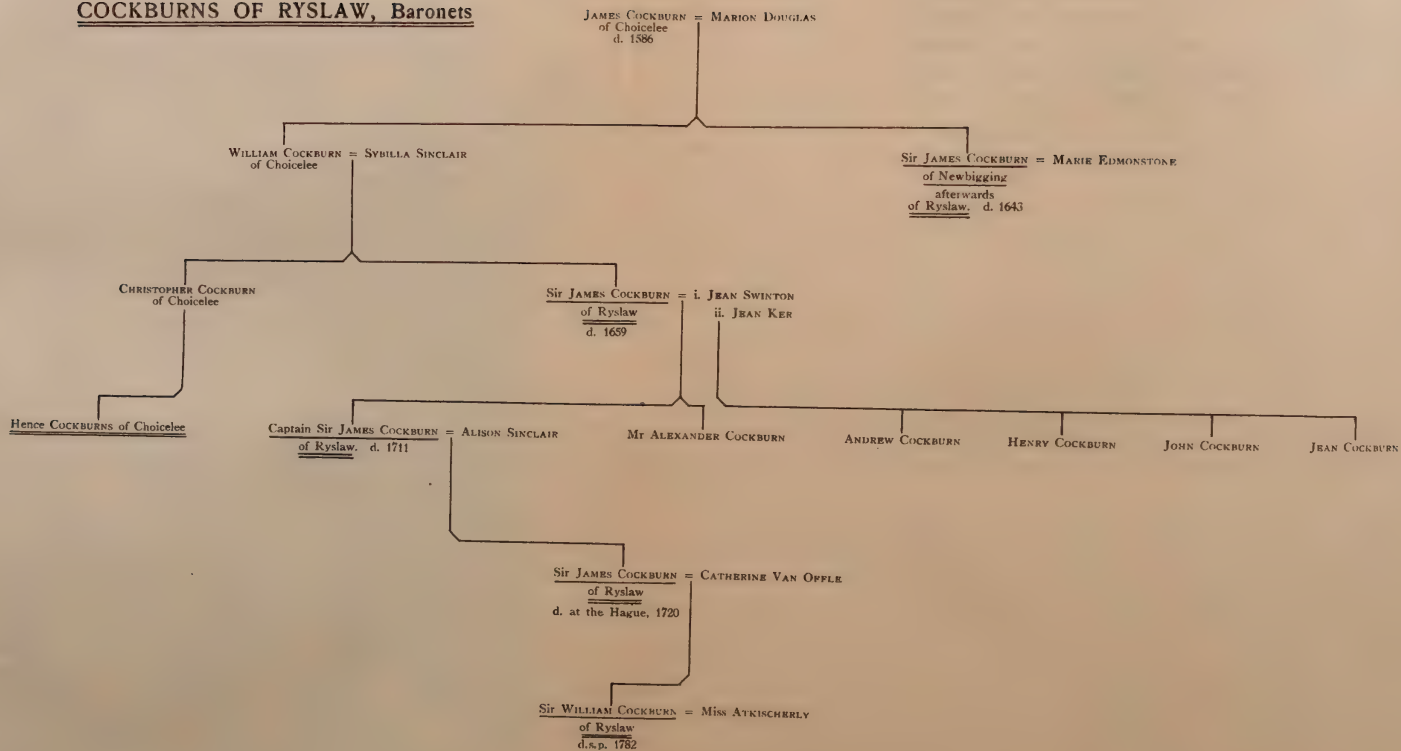
*** Douglas, *Baronage*.

|||| See p. 75.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

And so came to an end this somewhat commonplace branch of the family. They seem to have been unimportant from one generation to another in the main line, although from the stem there were thrown out off-shoots, such as the lines of Caldra and Ryslaw, many members of which were distinguished in the service of their country. In spite of this insignificance, however, it has been considered advisable to work out their pedigree in detail; for that given by Mr. Hood is inaccurate and incomplete, ending abruptly with the first of the three Christophers who brought the line to a close.

COCKBURNS OF RYSLAW, Baronets



COCKBURNS OF RYSLAW*

THE founder of this line was JAMES COCKBURN, a younger son of James Cockburn of Choicelee and Marion Douglas. In 1625, on his marriage with Marie Edmonstone, the bride's father, Sir John Edmonstone, surrendered Ryslaw, together with other lands in the barony of Niddrie-Edmonstone, in the county of Berwick, to the King, who regranted them to James Cockburn.† In this charter the grantee is styled as 'of Newbigging,' for he had acquired that property from Sir Richard Cockburn of Clerkington.‡ Moreover, besides bringing him Ryslaw, this wife, whose family had large possessions, seems to have inherited Greenlaw, to which, some forty years after this marriage, her sister Joneta, Lady Lugton, succeeded.§

James Cockburn, therefore, was a man of considerable substance, and it is not unnatural that in the year 1628 he should have been created a baronet. It is true that this creation is not supported by the unimpeachable documentary evidence which one could desire, but rests on the statements, far from contemporary, of Playfair|| and Sir William Betham.¶ For more than sixty years, however, Burke recorded

* Mr. Cockburn Hood in his *House of Cockburn* has so traduced and misrepresented this family that it is essential for us carefully to particularise the ancestry of the branch, several members of which did good service for their country.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. viii. No. 854.

‡ *Gen. Reg. Sasines*, vol. lii. fol. 474. See also Cockburns of Clerkington and Newbigging.

§ *Berwickshire Retours*, 1664.

|| *Family Antiquities*, vol. viii.

¶ *Ulster Coll. of Arms, Family MSS.*, by Sir William Betham. The fact that the baronetcy is not recorded in the register of the Great Seal of Scotland nor in what is known as 'Mylne's List' is of minor importance. Several creations which have been generally recognised are similarly omitted. An explanation of the loss of the patents of Charles I. is, in the opinion of Sir John Dalrymple, Lord Advocate, to be found in the Act of 1651, cap. 26, whereby titles of honour granted by Charles I. were made void and called in, under severe penalties. Further, after the Restoration eighty-seven hogsheads of Scottish records were lost at sea on their way back from London to Edinburgh. It is probable also that many family records which were in existence in Playfair's and in Betham's time have since been lost.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

the baronetcy in his *Peerage and Baronetage*, though it must be admitted that the earlier portion of the pedigree detailed in that annual volume was quite erroneous. Cokayne grudgingly admits the title and its holder to his *Complete Baronetage*, but surrounds his entry with a condemnatory black border.

Nevertheless, there is little doubt that a baronetcy did belong to the Cockburns of Ryslaw, though that it was conferred in the year and on the person named by Playfair and Betham is not so certain. The second James Cockburn of Ryslaw, the first laird's nephew, was demonstrably a baronet, unless, as the sceptical Cokayne hints, the letter written to him by Charles II. in 1653 and directed to Sir James Cockburn of Ryslaw, Knight Baronet of Nova Scotia (see p. 157), be incorrectly directed. That this was the case there is no particular reason to suppose. Further, when Sir James, the third laird, registered his arms at the Lyon Office in 1672, though not actually styled 'baronet,' he was described as 'The Right Worshipful Sir James Cockburn of Ryslaw.' Now, to quote Sir John Dalrymple, 'another difference between a Knight Baronet and a Knight Batchelor is, in Scotland, that the first was styled Right Worshipful, and the last only Worshipful.*' Lastly, Sir James, his predecessors and his successors, all invariably used the prefix 'Sir,' though it was extremely improbable that they were invariably knighted. On the whole, therefore, the validity of the baronetcy may be assumed. Seeing, however, that a baronetcy would not descend from the original grantee to his nephew without a special remainder, it may perhaps be conjectured that the title was conferred on the second James, and that Playfair and Betham have somewhat antedated it.

A word or two concerning the nature of baronetcies may

* His opinion on the Cooper of Gogar baronetcy—a very similar case—quoted in the *Genealogist*, N. S., vol. xxiv.

COCKBURNS OF RYSLAW

not be out of place in this connection. The first creation of this, the lowest of hereditary titles, was made in 1611, as a means to the colonisation of Ulster. In 1619 an Irish order of baronets was instituted for the same purpose, and in 1625 the baronetcies of Nova Scotia were introduced with a view to the improvement of that colony. Estates 'thrie mylis in breadth and six in lenth' were granted to the baronets of Nova Scotia on condition that they 'furnished such a number of persones as shall be condescendid to inhabit there.' That the colonists expected to find gold mines in their allotments is evident from the sasine of Sir Lachlan McLean, who had the 'privilege to dig as deip as he pleises for gold and precious staines.'* Sir James Carmichael went even further, for he was given power to 'dig if he will to the suburbs of Hell for searching of gold mynes.'† No one seems to have ventured further than 'the suburbs,' a direction which could hardly be exceeded with safety!

Although the Nova Scotian baronetcies were originally intended to be bestowed on 'knights and esquires' of Scotland alone, several Englishmen, such as Sir Arthur Pilkington, Sir Henry Slingsbie, and others, received the title.

Baronets of Nova Scotia, who continued to be so styled until the Union in 1707, had the privilege of wearing a badge bearing the arms of Nova Scotia, 'a scutcheon argent, a saltire azure and thereon an inescutcheon of Scotland,' suspended round the neck by an orange ribbon. This right is still exercised on appropriate public occasions.

According to an old manuscript history of the family,‡ the first laird of Ryslaw was a staunch loyalist, who raised a troop of horse at his own expense for the service of King Charles I., and fought at the battle of Edgehill in October 1642.

* *Gen. Reg. Sas.*, vol. xxxii. fol. 347.

† *Ibid.*, vol. xxxvi.

‡ In Sir R. Cockburn's possession.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

The year before this he seems to have been in prison, where he received the following letter from the King:—

‘Letter to Sir James Cockburn of Ryslaw when in prison dated 25th October 1641, written with the King’s own hand:—

‘GOOD RYSLAW,

‘You cannot be more sensible yourself than I am of all your sufferings on my account which puts upon me the stricter obligation, not only to restore to you your liberty, now unjustly detained from you, but also to show the world by my actions how really I am

‘Your most assured and constant friend

‘CHARLES R.’

By the charter of 1625, failing legitimate male issue to James Cockburn, Ryslaw was settled on his brothers Christopher and John and their male issue, in turn, with eventual remainder to the heirs and assigns of James.*

In 1639 the laird of Ryslaw made disposition† of his lands (he and his wife Marie Edmonstone being evidently childless) to his nephew James, second son of his deceased brother of Choicelee; and in July 1643, shortly after Sir James had joined the majority, a Charter of Confirmation was granted under the Great Seal ratifying and approving of the disposition mentioned above.

In accordance with this settlement, SIR JAMES COCKBURN, second son of William Cockburn of Choicelee, succeeded his uncle in the spring of 1643.‡ He must have been born prior to 1600, for he was second son of Sybilla Sinclair, who died in 1606, and several children were born to her after his arrival into the world.

In 1647 he was appointed Sheriff of Berwickshire,§ while

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. viii. No. 854.

† *Hay Deeds*, vol. cccclxxix., April 1639.

‡ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ix. No. 1363.

§ *Ibid.*, vol. lx. No. 1744.

COCKBURNS OF RYSLAW

nine years later his name is found amongst the Commissioners for Supply for that county, along with General George Monk, John Swinton, Earl of Home, and Sir William Cockburn of Langton.

Like his uncle, James Cockburn of Ryslaw, this Sir James was a strong loyalist, and possessed the confidence of King Charles II., as is evident from the following letters* :—

‘CHARLES R.

‘Trustie and weill beloved, we greit you weill, as we heretofore received frequent and ample testimonie of your great fidelitie, together with our blessed father and selfe, and your sufferings for the same, the bearer hereof, Major William Drummond has given us a full account of the continuance and constancie of the same affection and courage in you towards us and our service, for which we have thought fitt to return you our princelie thanks and acceptatione and to assure you that when God shall enable us we will reward your faithful services and repair your sufferings. We know weill we need not incourage you to use your utmost power and credit to assist those who are intrusted by us to conduct our affairs there, and who we hope with God’s blessing be his instruments to redeeme your countrie from the oppression slaverie and tyranie it now groans under.

‘What we have done and intend in person to doe towards it, you will understand by this bearer, who will likewise tell you the good opinion we have of you; and soe we bid you fairwell. Given at Chantilly the 30th October 1653 the fifth year of our reign.

‘To our trusty and weill beloved

‘SIR JAMES COCKBURN OF RYSLAW

‘Knight Baronet of Nova Scotia.’

Six years later King Charles wrote from Columbe (?Cologne):—

* From copies in possession of Sir R. Cockburn and H. A. Cockburn.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

‘COLUMBE, 16 Dec. 1659.

‘Your handsome and considerable engagements gave me not only full satisfaction for your former actions but a tender sense of your particular misfortune, and if it pleases God to bless me neither you nor yours shall have cause to repent it. Soe signall a testimonie as you have lately given of your inclinations to me makes me very willing to encourage the generous retourn of misled persons and to assure them that they can no sooner acknowledge their errour than I shall show a value and esteem for them. Your guid friends has given me a perticular account of your proceedings by the which I clearly find you intended my restoiration and my kingdom’s tranquillitie and this induces me to give you the assurance of my being

‘Your very affectionate friend,

‘CHARLES R.

‘To the Lairde of Ryslaw.’

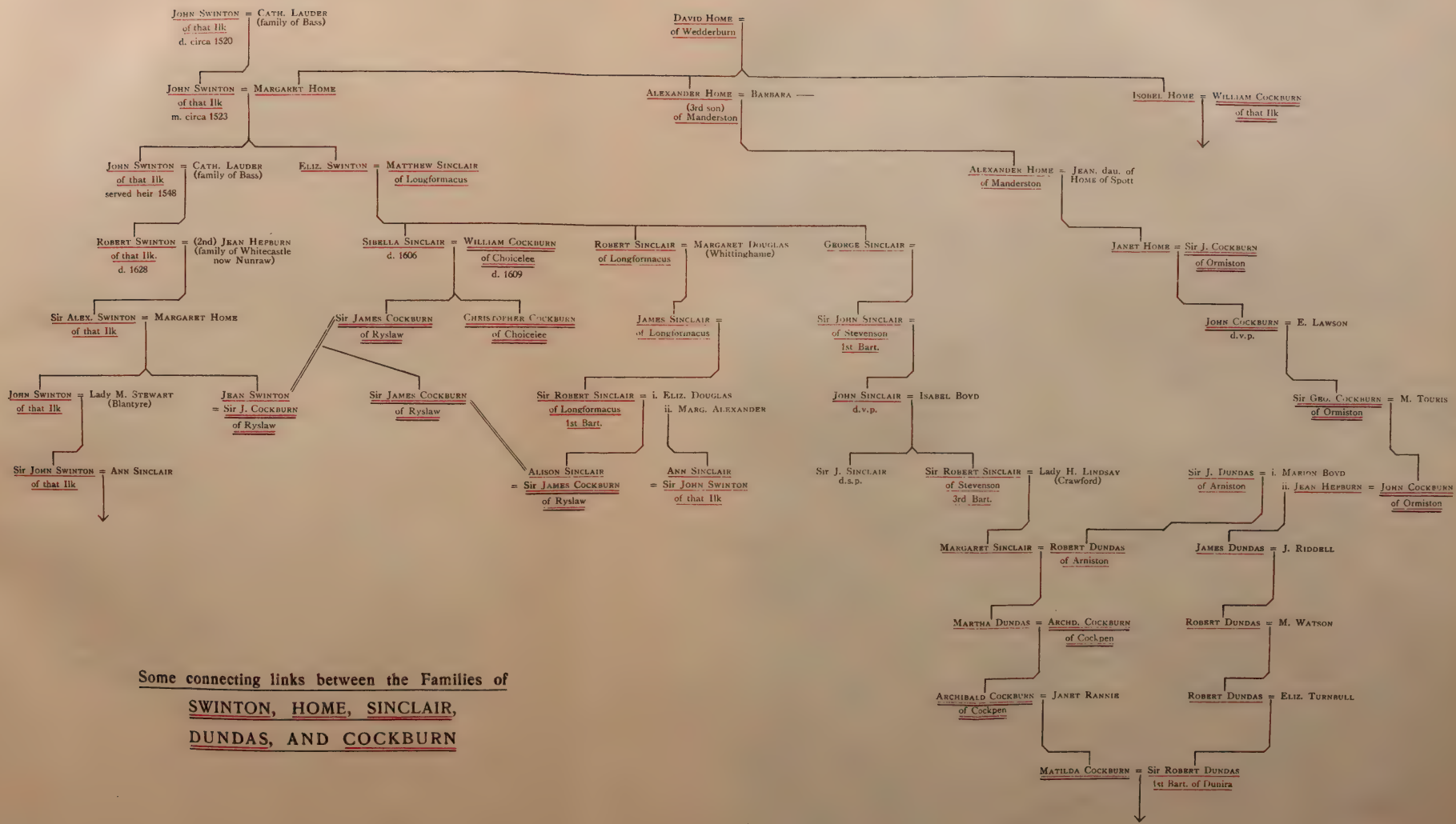
These letters effectually dispose of the idea that the first two lairds of Ryslaw were the insignificant personages portrayed by Mr. Hood.

Another long letter from John, Earl of Middleton, addressed to ‘My honourable friend, the Laird of Ryslaw, Knight of Nova Scotia,’ was written from Glenelg on 13th December 1654, and is full of instructions and advice as to raising a Highland force in support of King Charles, but it is scarcely worth reproducing here *in extenso*.

Sir James Cockburn died in November 1659, and was buried at Fogo,* by his own desire.

He had married, first, Jean, daughter of his neighbour, Sir Alexander Swinton of that Ilk, by whom he had James, his successor, born in 1646, and Alexander, doubtless named after his maternal grandfather. His second wife was Jean Ker, by whom he had Andrew, Henry, John, and a daugh-

* *Lauder Wills.*



Some connecting links between the Families of
SWINTON, HOME, SINCLAIR,
DUNDAS, AND COCKBURN

COCKBURNS OF RYSLAW

ter Jean. All the sons, with the exception of the heir, died without issue.

SIR JAMES COCKBURN, the eldest son, was retoured heir to his father in the lands and barony of Ryslaw, besides a dwelling in Edinburgh, on 20th April 1666.

In 1671, with Sir James Cockburn of that Ilk and Sir Archibald Cockburn of Langton, he was among the commissioners for the shire of Berwick, and again in 1685, so that he seems to have busied himself with county matters.

But, like other members of the family about that time, his affairs seem to have got into disorder, and in 1710* he sold the lands and barony of Ryslaw, with Printonan and other lands comprised in the estate, to Thomas Calderwood, and shortly afterwards died.

In 1675 Sir James married Alison Sinclair, daughter of Sir Robert Sinclair of Longformacus, by whom he had four sons: James, his heir, born 27th March 1677,† Robert in 1678, John in 1683, and Archibald in 1686.‡ The last named and a sister Anne died of a fever on the same day, 29th July 1702, and were buried in Old Greyfriars kirkyard.

The different connections between Cockburns, Sinclairs of Longformacus, Sinclairs of Stevenson, and Swintons about this time are so remarkable that they are worth tabulating in a pedigree form.

The family estates being lost, SIR JAMES COCKBURN, who should have inherited them, betook himself to Holland,§ where, like many of his countrymen, he joined the military service, rising to the rank of colonel. He married a lady of some fortune in Friesland, Catharine van Offle, daughter of a man of distinction in that country, by whom he had

* *Session Books*, Nov. 1711.

‡ *Fogo Reg. Bapt.*

† *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

§ *MS. History of the Family.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

three sons: William, John, and Patrick. John, the second son, became a merchant in Nantz, where he died unmarried, and Patrick entered the British Army, obtained a company in Hamilton's regiment, but died without issue at Halifax in Nova Scotia in 1760.

Sir James Cockburn of Ryslaw died at The Hague in 1720.

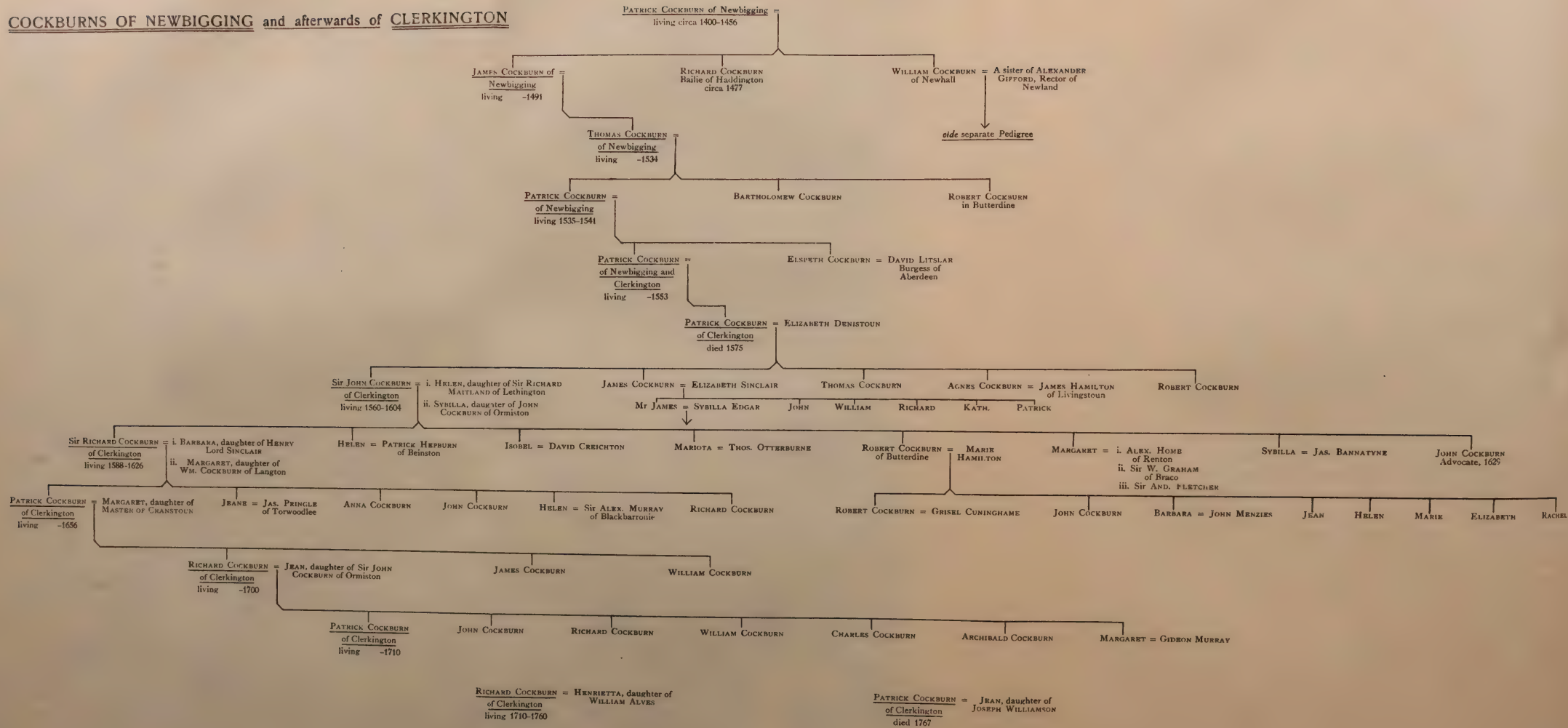
SIR WILLIAM COCKBURN, his eldest son, entered, like his father, the service of Holland, and rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Dutch Guards. He married a Miss Atkerscherly, daughter of a gentleman of some property in the province of Utrecht, by whom, however, he had no issue.*

In June 1772 Sir William Cockburn went* from Holland to Ireland to visit his kinsman, Dr. William Cockburn, Archdeacon of Ossory, taking with him his charter chest and various original papers and letters of the family. It happened that Sir James Cockburn of that Ilk, major in the forty-eighth regiment, was also visiting his cousin the Archdeacon, and amongst them they drew up an account of the family gleaned from the papers and personal knowledge of each party. Two copies at any rate are in existence, although in some respects they can be proved, from public archives nowadays brought to light, to be erroneous.

Ten years after this important document was drawn up Sir William Cockburn died at The Hague, in 1782, and as he left no issue the family came to an end in the direct male line.

* *MS. History of the Family.*

COCKBURNS OF NEWBIGGING and afterwards of CLERKINGTON



COCKBURNS OF NEWBIGGING AND CLERKINGTON

As in the case of the Cockburns of Kirklands of Bolton, the origin of the family who held Newbigging and afterwards Clerkington for some three hundred and fifty years is a little mysterious. Mr. Hood in the *House of Cockburn* has no hesitation in making Patrick Cockburn of Newbigging (the first of the branch) a son of Sir Alexander Cockburn of Langton, Keeper of the Great Seal, but he offers no proper proof that this was so. Sir Alexander, however, undoubtedly had a son called Patrick,* which was quite as certainly the name of the progenitor of this family; and that these Patricks were identical is by no means improbable.

At first sight it is a little difficult to determine which of numerous Newbiggings, in the Lothians and Berwickshire, the estate of Patrick Cockburn really was,† and it was not till the family of Blacksmiln came to be dealt with that proof was forthcoming, under date 1750,‡ that this Newbigging was in the parish of Innerwick.

Patrick Cockburn of Newbigging was a very prominent man in Scotland in the middle of the fifteenth century, holding several public appointments, and on one occasion at least he was sent by the Scots Government to England to treat for peace.§ He was also Governor of Dalkeith Castle, an important place in those troublous times, besides being Constable of Edinburgh Castle and at one time Provost.||

As not infrequently happens, in default of explicit statements as to births and deaths, it is rather difficult to decide whether there are two Patrick Cockburns or one referred to in the records. If only one, then he must have been an

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 256.

† Mr. Hood contented himself by saying that it was 'one of the many places so-called.'

‡ *R. M. S.*, lib. cii. No. 107.

§ *Rotuli Scotiæ*, vol. ii. pp. 334, 336.

|| *Exchequer Rolls*.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

old man when in 1456 he had a safe-conduct into England on official business.* But Mr. Hood's confident talk of father and son has no documentary support. There is no record, for instance, of the father's death; and none of the usual differentiations, such as 'elder' and 'younger,' which are made when two members of the same house, bearing the same name, are contemporaries in the public service. On the other hand, an Helen Ker appears as the wife of Patrick Cockburn in 1448, and Helen de Dunbar in the following year.† This, however, admits of a variety of interpretations. There may, of course, have been two Patricks, who both married Helens; or there may have been only one, who remarried in the interval between the two records; or, finally, there may only have been one Helen, referred to in one case by her maiden name and in the other by that of a former husband.

Patrick Cockburn (whether first or second of his name and line) had three sons: James, his heir; Richard, a bailie of Haddington; and William, who acquired Newhall, a property held by his descendants for several generations (see p. 171).

JAMES COCKBURN succeeded his father in Newbigging, and is the first of the line to be called 'of Clerkington,' being so designated in the *Acta Dominorum* in February 1491. In March 1490, however, he is still styled 'de Newbigging,' and is again so designated in the same records in January 1492 and October 1493. There is no question that these entries all refer to the same man. This points to the fact that Newbigging was regarded as the more important of his properties. Who his wife was it is impossible to say with any degree of certainty, but the next heir, probably his son, was

THOMAS COCKBURN, of whom we hear little, except that

* *Rotuli Scotiae*, vol. ii. p. 375.

† *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. v. pp. 308, 347.

COCKBURNS OF CLERKINGTON

he is mentioned in a criminal case in January 1534, when he is called 'of Clerkingtone.*' He apparently died a few months later, before June 1534, and in February 1535

PATRICK COCKBURN of Newbigging was retoured heir to his father Thomas.† In June 1539 Patrick sold to William Cockburn of Choicelee and Margaret Galbraith, his wife, his lands in the parish of Langton, with the mill, etc.‡ One of the witnesses to this transaction was his brother Bartholomew Cockburn.

In March 1541 he had confirmation from James v. of a charter from James, Commendator of St. Andrews, of the lands of Clerkington, with the mansion, etc., and in this charter his son Patrick is mentioned as heir-apparent.§ Two years later Patrick Cockburn is referred to as being of Newbigging,|| showing that the older property was still in the possession of the family.

Little more is heard of him till March 1553, when a precept of remission was granted to Patrick Cockburn of Clerkington for his offence in assisting the English,¶ probably at the time when his kinsman and neighbour, John Cockburn of Ormiston, was so actively aiding Somerset in his incursions into Scotland.

Besides Bartholomew, already mentioned (who was killed on 20th February 1557 by one Alexander Heriot and others), he had two brothers: Robert Cockburn, described as being 'in Butterdean,'** and James Cockburn, who had a pension granted to him in March 1564 by Patrick, Bishop of Moray.††

Who his wife was is not known, but he was succeeded by his son,

* Pitcairn, *Crim. Trials*, vol. i. p. 169.

† *Laing Charters*, No. 398.

§ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 2611; *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. xv. fol. 92.

|| *Ibid.*, vol. xvii. fol. 52.

** *Ibid.*, vol. xxix. fol. 19.

† *Ibid.*, No. 432.

¶ *Ibid.*, vol. xxvi. fol. 73.

†† *Ibid.*, vol. xxxiii. fol. 3.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

PATRICK COCKBURN, and from this point references to the family become more frequent in the records. They do not, however, account for the three marriages which Mr. Hood assigns to Patrick Cockburn. Only one wife of his, Elizabeth Danzielstone or Dennistoun, can be named with certainty, though it is just possible that she was his second wife. In her will* she mentions her sons James and Thomas, but omits to name John, who succeeded to Clerkington, so that it is possible that her husband's heir was by a former wife. This will is interesting and possibly characteristic of the woman. Among other legacies she leaves thirteen hogs to Thomas, bastard son of her own son Thomas; to Isobel and Marian Cockburn, daughters of John, laird of Clerkington (thereby apparently implying that John was not her own son), thirty-six ewes and two pairs each of sheets and blankets respectively.

This laird of Clerkington, who died in Edinburgh on 6th January 1575,† left at any rate five children: John, his heir,‡ James,§ Thomas,¶ Robert, and a daughter Agnes, who married in 1564 James Hamilton of Livingstone.

James, the second son, who died in April 1595,|| was described as a burghess of Haddington in his will, which was proved in June 1609 by his widow Elizabeth Sinclair. She, who appears to have been of the family of Sinclair of Blans, married, secondly, another Cockburn, Harrie, also described as burghess of Haddington. In his will James Cockburn mentions five children born to himself and Elizabeth Sinclair: James, John, William, Katharine, and Richard.

James Cockburn the younger became 'of Wester Monkrig,' near Haddington, of which place he was pro-

* *Edin. Tests*, April 1590.

† *Will of Patrick his father*, 1578.

‡ *Scott Deeds*, vol. vi. No. 429.

† *Ibid.*, 1578.

|| *Edin. Tests*, 1609.

COCKBURNS OF CLERKINGTON

most, and married Sybilla Edgar (of the family of Wedderlie), by whom he had Marie, born 1623; Anna, 1625; Isobelle, 1627; and one son, James, born 9th July 1633.* James Cockburn of Wester Monkrig died prior to 1648, in January of which year his will was proved.

John, William, Katharine, and Richard, the younger children of James Cockburn and Elizabeth Sinclair, were minors when their father's will was proved, and their first cousin, Sir Richard Cockburn of Clerkington, was made their tutor or guardian.† A Patrick Cockburn is mentioned as brother to James Cockburn of Wester Monkrig in December 1622, when he was witness to a baptism at Haddington. As he was not named in the elder James's will, he was possibly a posthumous child.

Thomas‡ and Robert,§ the other two sons of Patrick Cockburn of Clerkington, are merely mentioned in various deeds, sometimes being described as brothers to John Cockburn of Clerkington.

JOHN COCKBURN, who succeeded his father Patrick in 1575, had in 1560 married Helen, daughter of Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington (now called Lennoxlove), the well-known Lord of Session, and Lord Privy Seal to Mary Queen of Scots||; her brother William Maitland, it may be mentioned, married Mary Fleming, one of the Queen's 'four Marys.'

The laird of Clerkington does not seem to have been a man of much importance, and we hear little of him, his personality being perhaps overshadowed by the attainments of his eldest son Richard, who took a prominent part in Scottish affairs even in his father's lifetime.

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. v. No. 1745.

|| *Scott Deeds*, vol. iii. No. 411.

† *Reg. Deeds*, vol. cccxli.

§ *Hay Deeds*, vol. cciv., Dec. 1612.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Besides his heir he had two sons and five daughters:—

Robert, an advocate, styled ‘of Butterdean’ in Berwickshire, who died in July 1614,* leaving, by Marie Hamilton, six daughters and a son Robert, who was retoured heir to his father on 3rd May 1627 in the lands of Butterdean.†

John, of whom little is known. He, too, was an advocate, and in 1614 he was a witness to the sale of Butterdean by John Ellem to his brother Robert.

The daughters were Helen, married to Patrick Hepburn of Beinston; Isobel, married to David Creichton, son and heir of Patrick Creichton of Lugton; Mariota or Marion, married to Sir Thomas Otterburne of Reidhall‡; Sybilla, married to James Bannatyne, Senator of the College of Justice§; and Margaret, who married, first, Alexander Home of Renton,§ and, secondly, Sir William Graham of Braco.||

John Cockburn of Clerkington married, secondly, his kinswoman Sybilla, daughter of John Cockburn of Ormiston and widow of Sir William Sinclair of Hermiston.¶ On his death he was succeeded by his eldest son Richard.

The fact that he was grandson of the great Maitland of Lethington was probably of advantage to RICHARD COCKBURN when first he went to court, and brought him more quickly before the notice of those in authority than might have been the case had he been of less distinguished ancestry. But there is no doubt that he was a lawyer of great ability and deserved the honours bestowed upon him.

In 1588 he was made Gentleman of the King’s Chamber,**

* *Edin. Tests*, 1615.

† *Berwickshire Retours*, No. 154.

‡ *Laing Charters*, Nos. 1273, 1489, etc.

§ *Hay Deeds*, June 1631.

|| *Laing Charters*, No. 1958.

¶ *Hay Deeds*, vol. cix., May 1605.

** *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. lvii. fol. 53.

COCKBURNS OF CLERKINGTON

and three years later, in April 1591, he was given the office of Secretary to the King.* By June of the following year he had been knighted. He was then styled Sir Richard Cockburn, younger of Clerkington,† which shows that his father, John Cockburn, was still alive.

In 1596 he was made Lord Privy Seal, which place he held for some thirty years, and is said to have also been a Lord of Council, Session, and Exchequer.‡

He died on 26th September 1627,§ his widow, Dame Margaret Cockburn, surviving him for upwards of forty years. Her will was proved by her grandson, Richard Murray of Spittlehaugh (father of the fifth baronet of Blackbarony), in December 1668.

About the time when he received the Privy Seal, Sir Richard Cockburn married Barbara Sinclair, daughter of Henry, Lord Sinclair.|| A few years later, however, there is mention of his wife as Margaret, daughter of William Cockburn of Langton. Which of these ladies was the mother of his children it is difficult to say. In 1599 he had a daughter Jean baptised,¶ of whom it seems probable that Dame Barbara was the mother, perhaps dying soon after. The registers of baptism are then drawn blank for nearly five years, till 28th March 1604, when the Lord Privy Seal had a daughter Anna baptised.¶ After this three more children came upon the scene in regular succession: John¶ in April 1605, Helen¶ in December 1606, and in July 1608 a son Richard.¶ The two sons must have died young, as Patrick, who succeeded to Clerkington, was a minor in 1627, when his father died.

The eldest daughter Jean married** James Pringle of Tor-

* *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. lxii. fol. 36.

† *Ibid.*, vol. lxiv. fol. 20.

‡ *Scot, Staggering State of the Scots Statesmen.*

§ *Edin. Tests.*

|| *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. lxviii. fol. 216.

¶ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

** *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. viii. No. 447.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

woodlee, and Helen* (erroneously called Margaret by some authorities) became the wife of Sir Alexander Murray, second baronet of Blackbarony.

PATRICK COCKBURN, the next laird, was, as mentioned above, a minor at the time of the Lord Privy Seal's death, but on 23rd December 1628 he was retoured heir† to his father in the lands of Clerkington and other adjacent lands in the barony. He died in October 1656, when he cannot have been more than about forty years of age.

On 23rd June 1637 he married Margaret, eldest daughter of James, Master of Cranston, and Lady Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of Francis, Earl of Bothwell. This James was known as Master of Cranston during the life of his elder brother, who died without issue; but he did not live to succeed to the title, which eventually came to his son William.

Patrick Cockburn and Margaret Cranston had at any rate three sons: Richard Cockburn, who succeeded his father; James, of whom we only know that he was Collector of the Sheriffdom of Haddington and factor to his mother and elder brother in 1657‡; and William, of whom there are no traces beyond the record of his birth in December 1653.§ He must have been a good many years younger than his brothers.

RICHARD COCKBURN, Patrick's eldest son, succeeded him, and on 17th November 1670 married Jean, daughter of the deceased John Cockburn of Ormiston and Janet Hepburn, his wife, the two families being, of course, kinsmen and near neighbours. By her he had a large family||: seven sons—viz. Patrick, born in August 1671; John, born in July 1673; Adam

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. viii. No. 1489.

† *Haddington Retours.*

‡ *Mackenzie Deeds.* § *Haddington Reg. Bapt.*

|| *Ibid.*

COCKBURNS OF CLERKINGTON

in May 1676; Richard in April 1679; William in October 1680; Charles; and Archibald in June 1685; and four daughters: Margaret, born in August 1671; Jean in October 1674; Agnes in January 1678; and Elizabeth in September 1686. All these sons are mentioned as possible heirs in a disposition of Clerkington made by their father in February 1689,* with the exception of Adam, who would appear, therefore, to have died young. Charles, named here as the fifth son, has no entry in the Haddington register of baptisms. The eldest daughter Margaret married one Gideon Murray, a merchant in Edinburgh, on 25th February 1698.†

PATRICK COCKBURN, the eldest son, succeeded to Clerkington about 1700, and dying in October 1710, apparently unmarried, was succeeded by

RICHARD COCKBURN, who was retoured heir to his uncle, Patrick Cockburn, the previous laird, in 1716. Who his father was it is hard to say, but he was probably John, the second, or William, the fourth, surviving son of Richard and Jean Cockburn.

In 1730 he married Henrietta, daughter of the late William Alves, Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh,‡ by whom, however, he had no children.

In 'the '45' he was loyal to King George, or, as described by Charles Edward's secretary, Murray, 'a declared enemy.'§

In 1750 he sold to Alexander Cockburn of Blacksmiln the estates of Newbigging and Swansinlaw.||

Ten years later his death is announced in the *Scots Magazine* as having taken place on 7th November 1760.

* *Reg. Great Seal*, vol. lxxix. fol. 9.

† *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

‡ *Reg. Great Seal*, Aug. 1761.

§ *Grange of St. Giles*, pp. 78, 79. See under account of the family properties.

|| *Reg. Great Seal*, vol. cii. fol. 107.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

He was succeeded in the Clerkington estates by PATRICK COCKBURN, who was retoured heir to his cousin-german, *i.e.* first cousin, in June 1761. This laird's parentage is also unknown, though he was undoubtedly the son of one of the younger sons of Richard Cockburn and Jean Cockburn.

He married Jean, daughter of Joseph Williamson, advocate,* by whom he had no children, and in less than six years from his succeeding to Clerkington he sold the property to his father-in-law.

Just a year later, on 29th April 1767, he died in Edinburgh†; and so ended this long line—a disappointing family in many ways, for none of them since the days of Sir Richard Cockburn of Clerkington, James VI.'s Lord Privy Seal, seem to have risen to any eminence. No doubt the later members of the family played their parts as 'country gentlemen,' taking their proper places in directing local business, and secure in the management of their estates, but they made no name for themselves in the history of their country.

It will have been noticed that in this chapter there are a good many names which occur once and are not referred to again. These are the names of Cockburns who are mentioned in register or deed as sons or brothers of the laird of Clerkington for the time being, but whose subsequent history it has been impossible to trace. No doubt many of them married and left descendants, whose posterity, maybe, is still extant in the male line. But when it is realised that in Haddington alone (in which parish Clerkington is situated) there were over three hundred and seventy Cockburns baptised between 1620 and 1700, it will be seen how difficult, if not impossible, a task it would be to unravel the histories of any but the smallest proportion of those who bore the name unqualified by a territorial designation.

* *Sasines*, vol. cxxxviii. fol. 335.

† *Scots Mag.*

NEWHALL



COCKBURNS OF NEWHALL

THIS family, founded by William, a son of the first Patrick of Newbigging (see p. 162), only lasted, in the main line at any rate, for six generations.

Newhall is not an uncommon place-name, but this one was situated in the parish of St. Bothans or St. Bathans in East Lothian* (now called Gifford or Yester), which must not be confused with Abbey St. Bathans in Berwickshire.

WILLIAM COCKBURN, who became possessed of Newhall in the latter half of the fifteenth century, married a sister of one Alexander Gifford, Rector of Newland, and was succeeded by his son,

ALEXANDER COCKBURN, who was 'of Newhall,' in 1508.† It seems probable that his wife was a daughter of Lauder of the Bass, but exact proof of this is wanting. He had at any rate two sons: Alexander and Patrick (who had a son John). With these two young men he fought at the battle of Flodden, where the father and Patrick were killed and the younger Alexander taken prisoner.‡

This latter ALEXANDER COCKBURN, who was evidently released or escaped, succeeded to Newhall, and married Elizabeth Creichton. His life seems to have been short and not a merry one. In 1527 he murdered his wife. After this 'cruel slaughter,'§ as it was described, frequent legal actions were brought against him, but what became of the wretched man we cannot say. He had with one daughter, Elizabeth, two sons, William and George.

WILLIAM COCKBURN succeeded to Newhall, and like many others of the family had remission in 1551 for treason,|| hav-

* *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. xxxvi. fol. 113.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 3185.

‡ 'Acta Dominorum' (*Scottish Antiquary*, vol. xiii. p. 169).

§ *Acta Dominorum*.

|| *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. xxv. fol. 66

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

ing, no doubt, rendered assistance to the invading English. He died in October 1558.

By his wife Isobelle Lundy (?Lauder) he had four sons: Thomas, who succeeded him, George, John, and William, and one daughter, Beatrix. The third son, John, is described as 'indweller in Leith.'* Nothing further is known of any of the younger children.

Nor is there much to tell of THOMAS, the eldest son, who succeeded to the property. The few references to his name in the register of the Privy Seal throw little light on his life and character. His wife, whom he married in or about 1555, was Marion, daughter of Hew Douglas of Boorg and of that Janet Somerville who was also married to William Cockburn of Ormiston.† By her he had three sons: Thomas, William, and John; and two daughters: Elspeth and Marie. The youngest of the sons was presumably that John Cockburn, son of Thomas Cockburn of Newhall, against whom a complaint was laid in July 1611 by Robert Cranston, son of John Cranston of Skaitsbush, because he 'eftir a most insolent maner . . . first ran the hat af his heid' with a lance, so that 'he narrowlie eschaiped the violent point stryk thairof,' and afterwards pulled off the hat, and with a knife cut it to pieces. This case, in which the complainant was only fourteen years of age, was dismissed for lack of evidence.‡

THOMAS COCKBURN, the eldest son, had become laird of Newhall by 1582.§ He was succeeded by

WILLIAM COCKBURN, who was either his brother or his eldest son, though no record of Thomas's marriage has been traced. This William was the last Cockburn of Newhall.

* *Scott Deeds*, vol. iii. No. 185.

† Contract dated 15th Nov. 1555; *Scott Deeds*, vol. i. No. 236.

‡ *Reg. P. C.*, vol. ix. p. 214.

§ *Scott Deeds*, vol. xxi. No. 227.

COCKBURNS OF NEWHALL

Towards the end of the first quarter of the seventeenth century he sold his property and moved south of Tweed into England. He is described as 'of Gratheuche, County Durham,' in 1632; but where this place was, or whether he left descendants, we have been unable to discover, though he is known to have married one Elizabeth Nesbitt.* Newhall was bought by James Bannatyne,† who was appointed a Lord of Session, as Lord Newhall, in 1626. He was a son of Bannatyne of Newtyle.

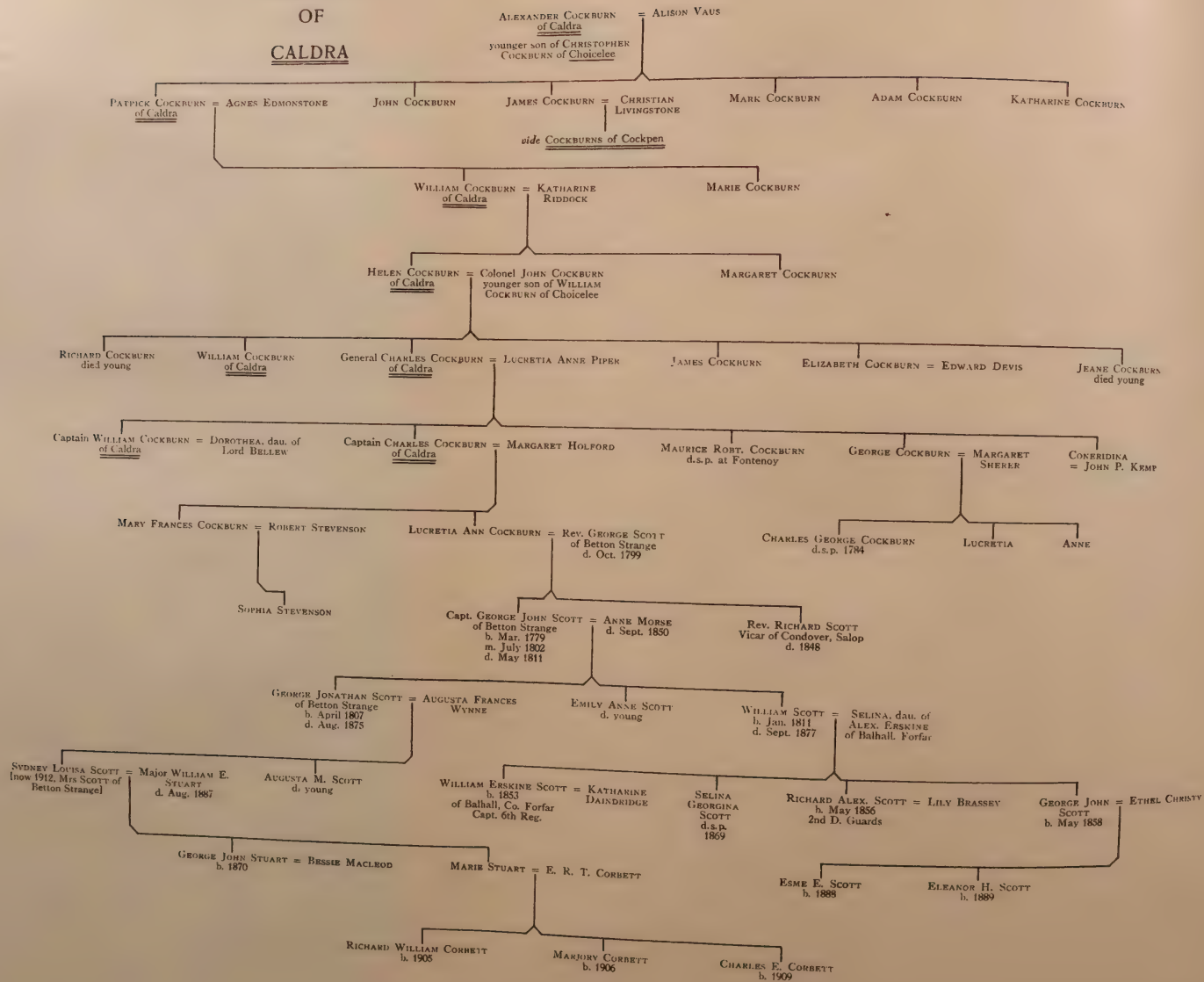
Thus ended, as far as is known, another branch of the family, though it is possible that the last owner's brother John carried on the line. His uncles, too, George, John, and William, may have married and left descendants. But no trace has been found of them.

* *Reg. Privy Seal*, vol. ciii. fol. 454.

† *Ibid.*

COCKBURNS

OF CALDRA



COCKBURNS OF CALDRA

By charter dated at Kelso 8th November 1554 ALEXANDER COCKBURN, a younger son of the first Christopher Cockburn of Choicelee, was granted the lands of Caldra or Caldraw, which he already occupied, by James Stewart, Commendator of the Monasteries of Kelso and Melrose, a natural son of King James v.* This gift was in return for certain sums of money paid to the said commendator for the reparation of the monastery of Kelso, which had been destroyed by the English. The charter was, some thirty years later, confirmed by the King under the Great Seal.

The destruction of the monastery had been carried out a few years previously when Hertford invaded the Borders and laid waste the property of the Church; and it is a little curious to note that Alexander Cockburn was thus repaid for his help to the Stewarts about the same time that his kinsman, John Cockburn of Ormiston, was receiving a reward from the English, in the form of large estates in Durham, for his assistance to the Protestant cause.†

In 1568 his brother Patrick Cockburn, Rector of Petcokkis, granted Alexander some lands near Dunbar.‡

The first laird of Caldra died in May 1593,§ having married Alison Vaus or Vaux, by whom he had Patrick, his heir, John, James, Adam, Mark, and a daughter Katharine. John, Mark, and Katharine are merely mentioned in their father's will, while Adam is named in the will of his uncle, the rector of Petcokkis, and James was the progenitor of the family who in years to come became possessed of Harperdean and Cockpen.||

PATRICK COCKBURN was in due course, in July 1601, served heir to his father in the presence of his cousin

* *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Milne Home); *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. v. No. 1129.

† See p. 118.

‡ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 2979.

§ *Edin. Tests.*

|| See p. 192.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Adam Cockburn, Sheriff-Depute of Berwickshire, younger son of the late Sir James of Langton.*

His wife was Agnes Edmonstone,† doubtless a relative of the wife of Sir James Cockburn of Newbigging, her husband's first cousin once removed. By her Patrick Cockburn had a son William, and a daughter Marie, who is merely mentioned in a deed in 1632‡; and nothing more is heard of him till July 1643, when

WILLIAM COCKBURN, his son, was served his heir.§ Scarcely any mention is made in the records of this laird of Caldra, who, like many others of the family, took little part in the public service. He married one Katharine Riddock, by whom he had only two daughters; but the line was carried on and the name of Cockburn of Caldra preserved by the marriage of the eldest, Helen, with her cousin, Colonel John Cockburn, son of William Cockburn of Choicelee and Sybilla Sinclair. Colonel Cockburn must have been many years his wife's senior. In September 1648 William Cockburn made over to his daughter and her husband the lands of Caldra, under reservation of his own life-rent and that of his wife Katharine Riddock||; and here, as far as can be gathered, his biography comes to an end.

COLONEL JOHN COCKBURN, the next in succession, is a much more interesting personage. At the time of his marriage, ¶ 14th September 1647, to Helen, eldest daughter of the preceding laird, he was Governor of the Castle of Stirling. From this appointment he evidently retired when his father-in-law made over the lands of Caldra to him in the following year, for when his eldest son was born in 1649 he was 'late

* *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Milne Home), p. 250.

† *Sasines*, Berwick, vol. iii. fol. 55, 1632.

‡ *Scott Deeds*, 17th June 1632.

|| *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Milne Home), p. 250.

§ *Berwickshire Retours*.

¶ *Canongate Reg. Marr.*

COCKBURNS OF CALDRA

Governor of the Town and Castle of Stirling.* In the same year the Scots Parliament made him a grant of £10,305 for his services in that capacity.† It was not long, however, before he was again in an official position. In February 1651, when Oliver Cromwell was in Scotland, Cockburn was Governor of Home Castle in Berwickshire. Against this stronghold came Colonel Fenwick, summoning the garrison to surrender to Cromwell. Cockburn's answer was worthy a man of his blood. 'I know not Cromwell,' he said; 'and as to my castle, it stands upon a rock!' Cannons were brought into use, and still Cockburn refused to yield. In derision of the enemy he sent the following letter:—

' I Willie Wastle
Stand firm in my Castle
And a' the dogs in the Toun
Shanna gar me gang down !'

The mortars, however, speedily made breaches in the walls which did 'gar him gang down,' and the castle was garrisoned by the English soldiers.‡

At what date this doughty governor died is uncertain, but it must have been about 1680,§ his wife having predeceased him in March 1668.|| By her (Helen Cockburn, heiress of Caldra) Colonel John had, with two daughters, Elizabeth and Jeane, four sons, ensuring several generations to carry on the main male line of the family. Richard, the eldest, whose birth has already been referred to, died in his father's lifetime. Of the other sons, William and Charles in turn succeeded to Caldra, while James is only once referred to in the records.¶

Of the daughters, Elizabeth married Edward Devis, 'one of the Gentlemen of His Majesty's Horse Guards,' and died

* *Canongate Reg. Bapt.*

† *Acta Parl. Scot.*

‡ *Lamont's Diary*; Taylor's *Historic Families of Scotland*, etc.

§ *Wedderburn Papers*, March 1682.

|| *Canongate Reg. Bur.*

¶ *Duns Castle Papers*, Jan. 1680.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

in 1736, whilst the younger, Jeane, died young in March 1665.*

WILLIAM COCKBURN, the eldest surviving son, born in 1654, became laird of Caldra on his father's death, but his record is almost a blank. Indeed, he is scarcely heard of till his own death, which took place in July 1721.† He seems, however, to have adopted the law as a profession, for in a deed dated October 1685 he is described as Writer in Edinburgh.‡

CHARLES COCKBURN, his brother, who succeeded, in advancing years, to the ancestral lands, was a much more prominent man. Born in October 1661,§ he entered the Army, no doubt at an early age; in 1688 he appears in 'Colonel Robert Hodge's Regiment of Foot' among British officers on the Dutch Establishment||; and we next find him in 1694 in the 1st Royal Regiment (Royal Scots), in which he remained for a number of years, rising to the rank of brigadier-general. Like his father, some eighty years before, he too was at one time Governor of Stirling Castle.

He died in July 1738, his end being sudden—almost tragic—judging from the bald announcement in the contemporary *Gentleman's Magazine*:—

'21 July: Brigadier Cockburn in King Street, St. James, suddenly after eating Cucumbers and drinking Cyder.'

At this lapse of time we can perhaps afford to smile at the tragedy following this injudicious mixture; but at the age of seventy-seven the old gentleman might surely have learned moderation, and contented himself with a portion only of one cucumber.

General Charles Cockburn married Lucretia Ann, daugh-

* *Canongate Reg. Bur.*

† *Wedderburn Papers.*

|| *D'Alton's Army List.*

† *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*, July 1721.

§ *Fogo Reg. Bapt.*

COCKBURNS OF CALDRA

ter of General Piper of Bosch-le-Duc (? Bois-le-Duc), in Holland,* by whom he had William and Charles, both of whom succeeded to Caldra, Maurice, George, and eight daughters.

Maurice, who, like his father and brothers, adopted the profession of arms, became a lieutenant in the Royal North British Regiment, and was killed at Fontenoy in 1745,† dying unmarried. George, a captain of Marines, born in May 1724,‡ married Margaret Sherer, and left issue, with two daughters, Ann and Lucretia, a son, Charles George Cockburn, who was born in 1768 and died in 1784.

WILLIAM, the eldest son of General Charles Cockburn, succeeded his father, and, like him, served in the first regiment of Foot (Royal Scots). By his wife Dorothea, daughter of Lord Bellew, he had no issue, and he died at what must have been an early age (though the date of his birth is not known) in May 1742.§ Five months later, 14th October, his widow married one David Dickson at the Mayfair Chapel.

CHARLES COCKBURN succeeded his brother in the lands of Caldra.§ He only enjoyed his inheritance for a few years, however, for in 1745 he parted with the property, selling it to Dr. Patrick Home, brother of David Home of Wedderburn.||

This last Cockburn, laird of Caldra, was born at Ghent in 1711,¶ and entering the army became a captain of Grenadiers. On 24th October 1747** he married at the May-

* Mrs. Scott of Betton's *Family Papers*.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Fogo Reg. Bapt.*

§ *Services of Heirs, 1745.*

|| *Part. Reg. Sasines, Berwick, Feb. 1745.*

¶ Mrs. Scott of Betton's *Family Papers*.

** *St. George's Chapel Marr. Reg. (Harl. Soc.).*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

fair Chapel Margaret, daughter of Thomas Holford of Hanwell, by whom he had only two daughters: Mary Frances and Lucretia Ann.

Captain Cockburn, like his elder brother, died at a comparatively early age at Minorca on Christmas Day 1751, his widow surviving him for more than forty years. In her will, dated 1792 and proved in 1798,* she mentions her two daughters: Mary Frances, who had married one Robert Stevenson in 1775 (by whom she had at any rate one daughter, Sophia), and Lucretia Ann, who married the Rev. George Scott of Betton Strange in Shropshire.

Seeing that Caldra and the Cockburns had by this time parted company, and that the main male line was extinct, it is perhaps only necessary to show in pedigree form the descendants of Lucretia Ann Cockburn and her husband, the Rev. George Scott.

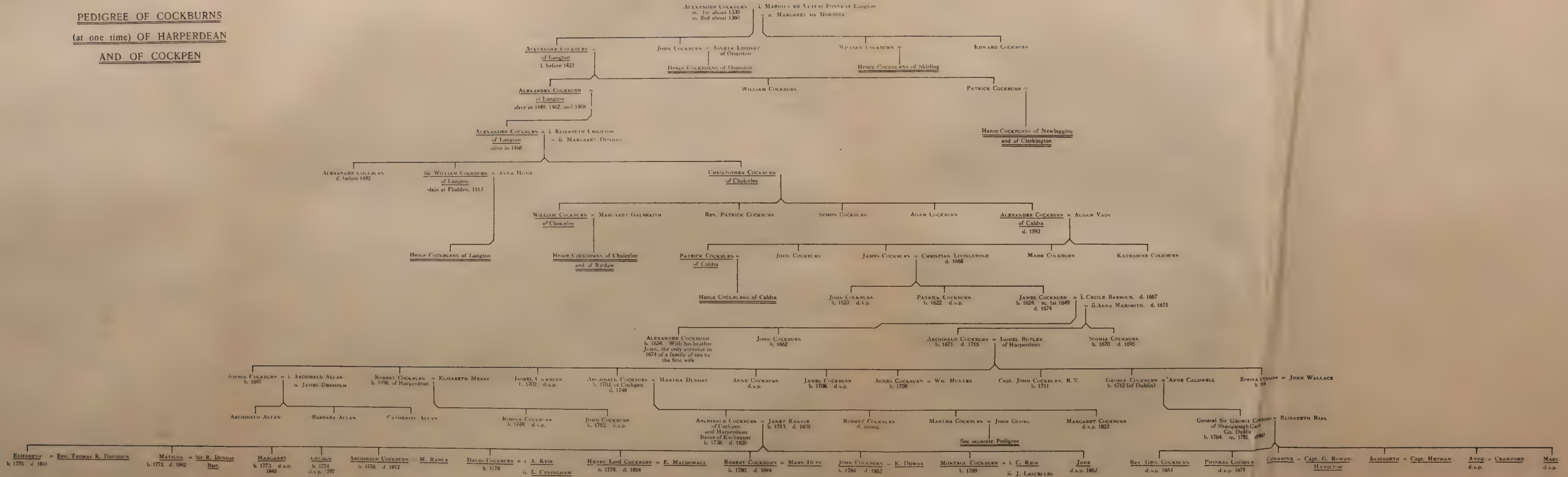
* Prerog. Ct. Canterbury.



PEDIGREE OF COCKBURNS

(at one time) OF HARPERDEAN

AND OF COCKPEN



THE COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

BEFORE entering on the authentic history of that branch of the Cockburns which was at one time seated at Cockpen, it may be as well to contradict certain erroneous statements which have long been current. To discover the true pedigree has not been easy, owing to an unfortunate scarcity of family papers, many of which were probably lost or destroyed when Cockpen passed from the Cockburns more than a hundred and twenty years ago. By careful research, however, the real connection between this and other branches of the family has at length been established.

The chief tradition to be destroyed is that which derives the lairds of Cockpen from a cadet of the house of Ormiston in East Lothian*—a tradition the grounds whereof, although unsound, are plausible enough. The late Alexander Cockburn (of 5 Belford Park, Edinburgh), son of Robert Cockburn and Mary Duff, at one time took an interest in the history of his family, and collected a number of eighteenth-century papers and letters bearing on the subject. Among these was a copy of what had been written in a family Bible in 1770 by George Cockburn of Dublin, an uncle of Lord Cockburn's father. The most important items were the following:—

‘Dublin. 1st Nov. 1770. I bound this Bible anew which belonged to my Grandmother, Isobel Swinton, daughter of Swinton of that Ilk, in East Lothian. She married John Butler Esq. of Harperdene of that County by whom there was one child Isobell born in 1682.

‘Isobell, heiress to that estate in the year 1697 married Archibald Cockburn Esq. of the Family of Ormiston by his mother Fairholme of Craigyhall. Was first cousin to William Marquis of Annandale. The consanguinity to the Earls of Hopeton, Finlater, Hynd-

* The author of the *House of Cockburn* not only accepts this tradition, but in his cocksure way also furnishes the Cockburns of Cockpen with a definite ancestry.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

ford and Marchmont, the Congaltons, Johnston of Hilton's Family etc., was entered in 4 pages of this Book from 1580 by her own hand, which are now lost by the book-binder.

'I offered a large reward, but in vain.'

He then gives a list of his brothers and sisters and their respective marriages, with dates of births, etc.

It has been the custom to put as much credence in entries in a family Bible as in the other contents of that book. In the present case, however, such confidence is misplaced. Comparing George Cockburn's dates with those recorded in the original registers, it is discovered that he was almost invariably inaccurate. He is not even a reliable authority for his own birthday.

For this inaccuracy George Cockburn was not altogether to blame. He was writing from memory of the entries in a lost book. He was past the prime of life, being in his fifty-ninth year, and already, it seems, in failing health; for a year previously he had written to his nephew, Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen, regretting that they would probably never meet again. He died, indeed, four years later.

But whatever may be said in his excuse, the fact of his inaccuracy remains, and his errors of chronology bring discredit on his other statements. One's lack of confidence is very soon justified. In the first place, Isobel Swinton was certainly not a daughter of Swinton of that Ilk, nor could 'that Ilk' be described as in 'East Lothian,' Swinton being in Berwickshire. Again, Cockburn says that Isobel Swinton and John Butler of Harperdean had one child, Isobel, born in 1682, whereas, according to the Haddington registers, she was born on 28th March and baptised on 8th April 1678. Most important of all, it has been conclusively proved that Archibald Cockburn, afterwards her husband, had no connection with the Cockburns of Ormiston. As will be shown shortly,

COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN

his father was James Cockburn, merchant burgher of Edinburgh and a member of the Caldra line, while his mother was one Anna Naysmith. Nor is the consanguinity to the noble families mentioned exactly transparent, though it might possibly resolve itself into a vague Scots cousinship.

Under George Cockburn's misguidance a great deal of time was spent attempting to find a Cockburn-Fairholme marriage, but every effort proved quite ineffectual. All registers were drawn blank, and an old manuscript pedigree of the Fairholmes of Craigiehall, kindly lent by one of their descendants, divulged no such alliance, although the line was carried back to a date some fifty years previous to that at which the marriage might be expected to have taken place. Reasons for believing that Anna Naysmith was in some way connected with the Fairholmes will be given in their place, but a Fairholme by birth she certainly was not.

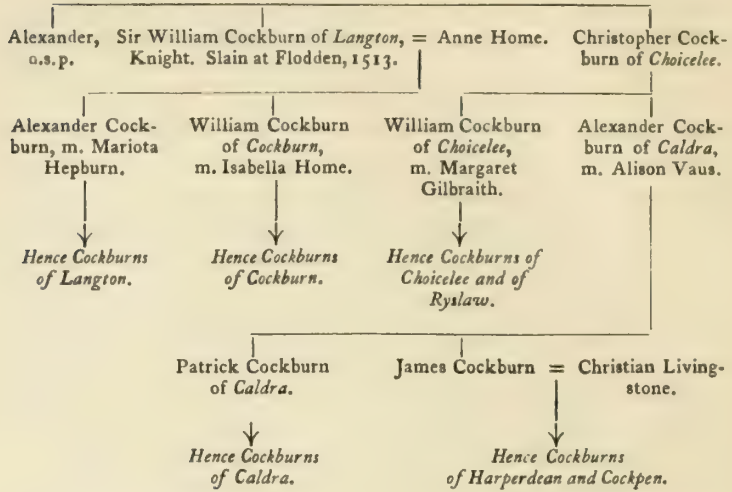
Clearly George Cockburn's Bible is an unsure foundation on which to build genealogies.

The other false traditions on which Cockburns of Cockpen have been nourished are matters of sentimental rather than of genealogical import. It has been believed that *the* 'Laird o' Cockpen' was an ancestor, and that Mrs. Alison Cockburn, authoress of 'The Flowers of the Forest,' was an ancestress. Both these cherished ideas must, in their proper place, be shown, however reluctantly, to be fables.

Most of the old papers which the late Alexander Cockburn collected came from Shanganagh Castle, near Bray in Ireland, the residence of General Sir George Cockburn, G.C.H., who died in 1847, son of George Cockburn of Dublin, who wrote the foregoing statement in the family Bible, and when quoted they will be referred to as 'Shanganagh Papers.'

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Alexander Cockburn of *Langton* [lineally descended = Elizabeth Creichtoun. from Alexander Cockburn of *Langton*, who about 1330 married Mariota de Veteri Ponte, heiress of *Langton*].



In the pedigree of the Cockburns of *Langton*, the chief branch of the family, it will have been seen that Christopher Cockburn, brother of Sir William Cockburn of *Langton*, who fell at *Flodden* in 1513, became possessed of *Choicelee*, a property close to *Langton**; and in the pedigree of Cockburn of *Choicelee* it has been shown that his second son Alexander became proprietor of *Caldra*, in the parish of *Fogo*, some three miles distant, in November 1554.†

Alexander Cockburn of *Caldra* died on 8th May 1593,‡ and left by his wife Alison Vaus, Patrick, who succeeded him in *Caldra*, John, James, Adam, Mark, and a daughter Katharine. It is the third son, James, who is of importance here, for from him the Cockburns, formerly styled 'of *Cockpen*,' are descended in direct line.

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. vi. No. 1475.

† *Hist. MSS. Com.* (Milne Home), p. 250.

‡ *Edin. Tests.*

COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN

The early history of this JAMES COCKBURN is necessarily vague. He was a younger son, inherited no lands, and was forced to make his own way in the world. Such men, unless by superior merit they win renown for themselves, do not figure prominently in records. In his father's will a James Cockburn, servitor to the Earl of Cassillis, is mentioned, but whether this was the ancestor of the lairds of Cockpen or not it is impossible to say. One who was styled 'servitor,' it must be remembered, was not necessarily employed in a menial capacity. He was probably a secretary or land-agent, or in some similar position—such offices being frequently held by younger sons of the best families.

There is undoubted evidence that some years later James Cockburn had moved to Haddington and settled there. His new home was then an extremely important town, on the main road from Berwick to Edinburgh by way of Dunbar. In searching the records of Haddington for this period and later, one is struck by the bewildering number of Cockburns who seem to have flocked into the town and the neighbourhood from various parts of Berwickshire and the Lothians; younger sons, some of them, attracted by the chances of improving their condition by means of trade, or by agriculture in the surrounding country.

Many of them it is impossible to identify, but James Cockburn may be recognised by his description as brother of Patrick Cockburn of Caldra and 'servitor' to Sir Richard Cockburn of Clerkington, Knight, Keeper of the Privy Seal, his kinsman,* whose mother, Helen Maitland, was sister to William Maitland of Lethington, the well-known Secretary of State in the time of Mary Queen of Scots.

About this time (1619) James Cockburn married Christian Livingstone, and in August 1620 their first child, John, † was born, amongst the witnesses to the baptism being Sir

* *Gibson Deeds*, vol. ccxc., Nov. 1619.

† *Haddington Reg. Bapt.*

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Richard Cockburn. In November 1622 another son, Patrick,* was born, and on 14th November 1624 a third son, James.*

The two elder sons must have died early, for in April 1645 JAMES COCKBURN was declared nearest heir of his deceased father, and had sasine of some lands within the liberties of the burgh of Haddington which had been in his father's possession.† He is described as 'a young man now dwelling in Edinburgh.' On 10th March 1641 he had been apprenticed to John Livingstone, merchant,‡ a relative, probably, of his mother's.

On 18th January 1649 he married his first wife, Cecil Barbour,§ and ten months later he was made burghess of Edinburgh, 'the prentice to John Livingstone, merchant.'||

By Cecil Barbour he had a large family,¶ the first child, a daughter, being called Christian (no doubt after his mother), the next James (after his father), the next Alexander (after his grandfather, Alexander Cockburn of Caldra); then followed Peter, Margaret, Cecile, Jean, John, Archibald, and George, the youngest, who was baptised in March 1666.

Infant mortality, however, ruled high in Edinburgh at this time, and all these children, with the exception of Alexander and John, died young, being buried** in Old Greyfriars kirkyard between 1659 and 1666. In addition to these deaths in the family, James Cockburn lost his wife Cecil Barbour in June 1667,†† and in the following May his mother died, and was buried‡‡ in the same place.

Left solitary by this sequence of bereavements, it was not long before the widower sought consolation in a second mar-

* *Haddington Reg. Bapt.*

† *Haddington Burgh Records*; Gray's *Protocol Books*, vol. vi. 169, vol. viii. 256.

‡ *Edin. Prentice Books.*

|| *Guild Roll of Edinburgh.*

** *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

‡‡ *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

§ *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

¶ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

†† *Edin. Tests.*

COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN

riage. His choice fell on Anna Naysmith, by whom he had two children*: Sophia, born in February 1670, and buried in Old Greyfriars kirkyard on 15th February 1695, and Archibald, born in July 1671. Three years later James Cockburn himself died, being buried † on 25th October 1674, and within a year, in June 1675, ‡ his widow, Anna Naysmith, also joined the majority.

Who Anna Naysmith was it is difficult to say. The actual record of her marriage with James Cockburn cannot now be found; but the ceremony must have taken place about 1669, at a time of civil tumult and rebellion, when registers of all kinds in Scotland were disgracefully kept and frequently lost or destroyed. Nor is there any other evidence as to her parentage or kindred. When her daughter Sophia was baptised a 'Mr. James Naysmith' appeared amongst the witnesses, but it is impossible to assign either him or the mother a place in any of the several families of Naysmiths which then existed.

Among the Naysmiths of Posso, at that time the principal family, the names of James and Anna occur several times, § but neither name is sufficiently uncommon to warrant identification on that ground.

Before leaving James Cockburn's second wife another point must be mentioned. It will be remembered that George Cockburn of Dublin declared that his grandmother had been a Fairholme, and there is little doubt that Anna Naysmith was in some way connected with the Fairholmes. The precise connection is to seek; but when the two children, Sophia and Archibald, were baptised in 1670 and 1671 respectively, Mr. John Fairholme of Craigiehall (in the parish of Cramond, near Edinburgh) was in each case the first witness named in the register. It is further to be noted that

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Ibid.*

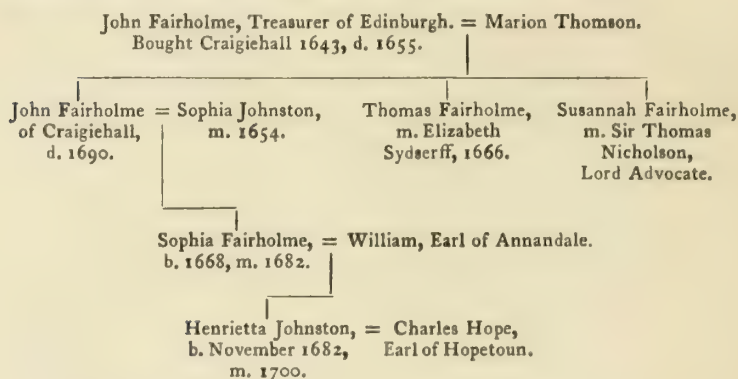
‡ *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

§ *Playfair, vol. viii.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Sophia was a Fairholme name, while amongst the many hundreds of Cockburn names extracted from registers, deeds, etc., in the course of compiling this work, Sophia only occurs twice—the first time being at the baptism of 1670 just mentioned, and the second when this Sophia's brother Archibald christened his eldest daughter with the same name in 1697.

The Fairholmes were at this time a very influential family. John Fairholme of Craigiehall was eldest son of another John Fairholme, * Treasurer of the City of Edinburgh, who died in 1655, and he had a brother Thomas, who had married Elizabeth Sydserrf, besides a sister Susannah, wife of Sir Thomas Nicholson, the Lord Advocate.



JOHN FAIRHOLME the younger married† in August 1654 Sophia Johnston, daughter of Joseph Johnston of Hilton, who got her name Sophia from her mother Sophia, daughter of Sir Patrick Hume of Polwarth, whose other daughter Jean was wife of Christopher Cockburn of Choicelee. They had no children for fourteen years. In March 1668, however, a daughter, Sophia, was born, and she married in January 1682 William, Earl of Annandale, who was created

* *Edin. Tests.*

† *Edin. Reg. Marr.; Scots Peerage.*

COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN

Marquis of Annandale in 1701. Of this match a daughter, Lady Henrietta Johnston, was born in November of the same year, and was married on 31st August 1699 to Charles Hope of Hopetoun, created Earl of Hopetoun.* Her first child, Margaret Hope, was born in the spring of 1700. It will thus be noticed that Sophia Fairholme, Marchioness of Annandale, was a mother before she had completed her fifteenth year, and a grandmother in her thirty-second year.

The Annandale family will be mentioned again later on in connection with a law-suit.

To return to the Cockburns, eventually of Cockpen, their history is now brought down to 1674, when James Cockburn, merchant burgher of Edinburgh, died, and to June 1675, when the death of his second wife, Anna Naysmith, took place. Of the only two surviving sons of his first marriage, Alexander and John, little is known, but it seems probable that one or other married and left descendants, for the following reason. James Cockburn had shortly before his death recorded heraldic arms at the Lyon Office in Edinburgh, and the crest which he took was a cock's head, with the motto: 'I rise with the morning.' Now in 1825 an Alexander Cockburn died and was buried in Swinton (Berwickshire) churchyard, aged seventy-three, and his widow, Margaret Service, dying in 1829, was buried in the same place. They had ten children: four sons and six daughters. One of the sons, Robert Cockburn, born on 19th May 1786, married Agnes McPherson, and they, too, had ten children. One of their sons, Alexander Cockburn, who died in 1896, had a ring and a seal which had belonged to his father, and possibly to his grandfather, bearing the crest of a cock's head and the motto: 'I rise with the morning.' Now this is the solitary instance in which the crest and motto granted to James Cockburn in the seventeenth century have been found, and

* *Reg. Edin., Dalmeny, and Abercorn ; Scots Peerage.*

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it seems almost certain that the Alexander Cockburn who was buried at Swinton, and must have been born about 1752, was descended from that James. And if that be the case, his ancestor must have been either Alexander or John, the sons of the merchant's first marriage, for he was certainly not descended from Archibald Cockburn, the only son of the second marriage. The baptismal registers neither of Edinburgh nor of Swinton throw any light on his parents' names, but, of course, he may not have been born in either place.

ARCHIBALD COCKBURN, only son of James Cockburn, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, by his second wife, Anna Naysmith, was born, as already stated, in July 1671. He was left an orphan before his fourth birthday, and by his father's will, dated 1674, was placed principally in the charge of Sir Archibald Cockburn of Langton, his somewhat remote kinsman and chief of all the Cockburns.* The second son by the first marriage, John, had George Cockburn of Pilton (son of the deceased Sir George Cockburn of Ormiston) as 'tutor' or trustee, which shows that James Cockburn of Edinburgh was on friendly terms with the distantly related and more important members of his family.

In 1692 Archibald Cockburn was apprenticed to Michael Allan, Dean of Guild, in Edinburgh. Michael was a Naysmith family name, and possibly Michael Allan was a relative of his mother, but it is impossible to say.

Of Archibald Cockburn's actual occupation we know little, except that, like his father, he was described as a merchant and a burghess of Edinburgh. His training under his trustee, Sir Archibald Cockburn, may not have been to his advantage, as Sir Archibald was constantly in financial difficulties, which contributed to the ruin of his family and

* *Edin. Tests.*

COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN

property. In 1696 at any rate Archibald the merchant became a shareholder to the extent of £400 sterling (his father only had about £5000 all told to leave among his four children twenty-two years previously) in the 'Joynte Stock Company of Scotland trading to Africa and the Indies,' the capital of which was £400,000 sterling—an enormous sum in those days. This was the notorious Darien Scheme, organised by William Paterson, who about the same time founded the Bank of England. The company was authorised by an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1695, the object being to establish a colony on the Isthmus of Darien as a general emporium for the commerce of all the nations of the world. In July 1698 pioneers to the number of twelve hundred started from Leith, and two other expeditions followed. But the Spanish had already mustered large forces to prevent the foundation of any settlement, and after being constantly attacked and besieged the Darien Colony had at last to surrender in the beginning of 1700. Few who had taken part in the enterprise ever returned to their native land, the rest having fallen victims to famine, disease, or the sword.

This disastrous undertaking must have affected the financial position of the upper classes in Scotland for some time, as almost every second name in the list of shareholders was that of a well-known person or family. Amongst other subscribers connected with this history were Michael Allan and William, Earl of Annandale, each allotted shares to the value of £1000; James Allan of Shaughrell (whose son married Sophia Cockburn), £300; Adam Cockburn of Ormiston, Lord Justice-Clerk, £1000; Patrick Cockburn of Clerkington, £300, etc., etc. Corporated bodies and towns, too, were connected with it; for instance, 'the Town of Air £200,' 'the Town of Haddington £400,' 'the Good Town of Edinburgh £1000,' and many others.

After this disaster Archibald Cockburn disappears from

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history for some years, being commemorated only by the records of the baptism of his various children. In 1710, however, he became possessed of the lands of Petercraig,* which adjoined Harperdean, and had been in the occupation of the Swintons, the relatives of his wife; and in 1713 he was granted sasine of Harperdean on charter under the Great Seal.† That place remained in the possession of his family for some seventy years.

Almost exactly two years later he died (4th October 1715) in his forty-fifth year, and he was buried on 8th October 'at his own headstone 8 double paces east of Hopes ground' in Old Greyfriars kirkyard in Edinburgh.‡

In 1696 Archibald Cockburn had married§ Isobel Butler, daughter of John Butler of Harperdean, Haddington, and Isobel Swinton, his wife. The actual record of the marriage is not to be found, as the Haddington register of marriages is at that time blank—another instance of the records being carelessly preserved.

As a result of this marriage Harperdean eventually passed into the possession of the Cockburns; but this was not the first occasion on which men of the name had been connected with the place. About 1520 there were Cockburns of Harperdean, and again about 1615. These branches of the family have, however, no place in this portion of the history. Harperdean at the present day, a good-sized farmhouse, stands at a considerable elevation on the hill due north of Haddington, commanding extensive views over the town towards the distant heights beyond Gifford and Humbie.

The Butlers had apparently not been possessed of Harperdean for long. John Butler and Isobel Swinton|| were

* *Reg. Sasines*, vol. lxxviii.

† *Ibid.*, vol. lxxxii.

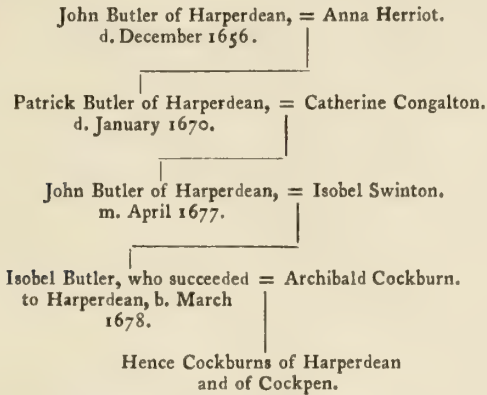
‡ *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

§ *Shanganagh Papers.*

|| To which branch of the Swinton family she belonged we have been unable to discover, but she was certainly not closely connected with the Swintons of Swinton in Berwickshire.

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married on 14th April 1677,* and their daughter Isobel was born in March 1678.† John Butler was son of Patrick Butler of Harperdean (died January 1670) and Catherine Congalton, his wife, which Patrick was only son of John Butler of Harperdean (died December 1656) and Anna Herriot, his wife. There were about this time Butlers of Kirklands of Bolton, a few miles to the south of Haddington, and it seems probable that this Harperdean family was connected with them.



Isobel Butler outlived her husband by many years, not dying until 1750. Her youngest son left it on record that she died on 1st July in that year,‡ but she was certainly buried on 21st June, ‘four double paces east of Charters pailling.’§

By her Archibald Cockburn had a large family,|| consisting of five sons and five daughters—namely, Sophia, Robert, Isobel, Archibald, James, Anne, Agnes, John, George, and Robina.

It will be most convenient to deal first with the daughters, about whom there is little enough to tell, and to leave the sons and their descendants for separate treatment,

* *Haddington Reg.*

† *Shanganagh Papers.*

|| Cf. *Edin. Reg.* and *Shanganagh Papers.*

† *Ibid.*

§ *Greyfriars Reg. Bur.*

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although the history of two of them, James and John, is also very meagre.

Sophia, the eldest daughter, named after her father's sister, was born in March 1697,* and on the 12th July 1724 she married Archibald Allan, 'son of deceased James Allan of Saughrell.'† Archibald Allan, who was a wine merchant in Annan, died in April 1742. According to George Cockburn,‡ his brother-in-law, he had issue three daughters, but in searching the Annan registers for verification we find them blank from 1714 to 1727. In May of the latter year, however, the birth of a daughter, Barbara, is recorded, and in the following April a son, Archibald, was born. In Allan's will, proved March 1743,§ his wife is the only member of the family mentioned. She in August 1753 married as her second husband James Denholme (or Denham) of Cran-shaws in Berwickshire, who died in 1767. In his will,|| recorded in the same year, he mentions Catherine Cockburn, his wife's daughter; so it may be that Sophia Cockburn and Archibald Allan had one son, Archibald, and these two daughters, Barbara and Catherine—not three daughters, as stated by George Cockburn of Dublin.

Isobel, the second daughter, was baptised on 18th February 1702¶; but she died young, being buried in Old Greyfriars kirkyard on 7th May 1711.

Anne, the third daughter, was born, according to her brother George, in 1708, and died in 1761 unmarried—'a valuable and perfect good woman of excellent understanding,' as he affectionately records.

Agnes, the next daughter, was born in 1709, and mar-

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Shanganagh Papers.*

|| *Edin. Tests.*

† *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

§ *Dumfries Tests.*

¶ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

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ried on 6th October 1728* William Hunter, Writer (lawyer), in Edinburgh.

Robina, the youngest daughter, was baptised on 19th October 1714.† For forty-nine years she remained a spinster, but on 6th April 1763 she married‡ John Wallace of Damhead, an official connected with the High Court of Admiralty. He is said to have died five years later, and she in 1774.§

ROBERT, the eldest son of Archibald Cockburn and Isobel Butler, was born on 30th June 1698 and baptised on 7th July.|| One of the witnesses to the baptism is Michael Allan, to whom Archibald Cockburn, the father, had been apprenticed six years previously; another is Patrick Johnston, who as Sir Patrick, Knight, ¶ was Lord Provost of Edinburgh on six occasions; a third is 'Dr. John Smellum,' which curious name is probably a phonetic spelling of 'Smailholm.'

Robert Cockburn is said** to have entered holy orders, and in February 1748 he married†† Elizabeth Merry, relict of Captain Walter Lockhart of Kirkton in Clydesdale, who had died in March 1743, aged eighty-seven.‡‡

He was at this time described as of Harperdean, and had by Elizabeth, his wife, a daughter, Robina Cockburn, born 15th June 1749, 'about 6 o'clock in the morning,'§§ and a son John, born March 1752, 'betwixt 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning.'||| The latter is said to have been a promising young man, but he died young in the West Indies. He had been sent there on the advice of his uncle, George Cockburn of Dublin, ¶¶ who gave him £1000 on his departure, for his

* *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

† *Scots Mag.*

|| *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

** *Shanganagh Papers.*

†† *Scots Mag.*

||| *Ibid.*

† *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

§ *Shanganagh Papers.*

¶ *Maitland's Hist. of Edinburgh.*

†† *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

§§ From his 'Breeches' Bible.

¶¶ *Shanganagh Papers.*

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father was totally unable to provide for him. The daughter, Robina, died unmarried.

Robert, according to his brother George,* was a learned man, but half mad on religion and writing sermons. Of the latter he left several chests full, with an injunction on his executor, his nephew, Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen, that they were to be printed and published. However, as he was at the time of his death in such a state of financial embarrassment that he did not leave more money than would pay his debts and bury him, his wishes were never carried out.† Not only did he squander his money, but he sold the property at Kirkton, which came to his wife by her first husband, Captain Walter Lockhart!

His intellectual abilities do not seem to have been recognised or appreciated by his brother George, who remarked to his friend, Dr. Cleghorn of Dublin: 'They say my brother is very clever and full of Latin and Greek, but I think him a great blockhead!'‡

Of Archibald Cockburn, the second son of Archibald Cockburn and Isobel Butler, and of his descendants there is so much to relate that it will be more convenient to deal first with James, the third son, and with John, the fourth.

Of James very little is known, except that he was born§ in November 1708. His brother George says he 'was bread a physitian [*sic*] and surgeon,' and died in the East Indies in 1731 'a batchelor.' He may have died in that year, but it was not till 1739 that administration of his estate was granted to his mother, as nearest of kin.||

John Cockburn, the fourth son, was born¶ in 1711, and entered the Royal Navy, commanding the *Medway* man-of-war in 1743.

His calling took him to many parts of the world, and in

* *Shanganagh Papers.*

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Ibid.*

§ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

|| Prerog. Ct. Canterbury.

¶ *Shanganagh Papers.*

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1745 he commanded the *Woolwich*, of fifty guns, in which he joined Admiral Townsend at the Leeward Islands. In the following year he had the *Princessa*, of seventy-four guns, in which ship Admiral Lestock had his flag in an unfortunate expedition to Port L'Orient and the coast of Brittany.*

In the summer of this year Admiral Lestock was court-martialled for refusing to obey the orders of Admiral Matthews (with whom he had quarrelled) to bring his ship to the front in an action off Toulon.* Captain John Cockburn wrote the admiral's defence, and was of great service to him. In June, after a month's trial, the admiral was honourably acquitted, but six months later he died in London.†

In December of this year, 1746, Captain Cockburn propounded a great scheme, whereby, to retrieve their misfortunes in the expedition to Brittany, the English were to destroy the fleets which the French were in the habit of despatching in the spring to their West Indian possessions.

He wrote to the Duke of Newcastle, the Prime Minister, recommending that as French men-of-war were unable to enter the river of Bordeaux for want of water, 'three 20 gun ships and three sloops' might 'go and destroy all the West Indian ships that trade outward in Spring, and at the same time might be a convoy to the Transports that might go up to Poliak [?Pauillac] within 20 miles of Bordeaux, and land 2000 troops, which I am certain may go and destroy all the great warehouses and charter houses and a great number of still houses which are most part there and stand in a row about a mile in length and run down on the river side without any strength to molest anything that may come against them.'

'This would also stop,' he continues, 'all the corn from Brittany which is brought to Bordeaux and destroy all the wine and brandy in that part of the Country and also all

* Charnock's *Naval Biography*.

† *Scots Mag.*

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the merchandise and warehouses which would inevitably ruin them, and spoil all the vineyards wherever the troops went and entirely distress their fleet, army, and [West Indian] plantations.*

The Admiralty, apparently, did not look favourably upon his suggestions, for though there were continual naval engagements between the French and English in the following spring, our fleet does not seem to have approached Bordeaux. Captain Cockburn himself was stationed at Spithead in the *Princessa*.†

He seems to have followed the footsteps of his elder brother Robert and to have squandered his money, and he is said to have spent some time in the Fleet Prison for debt.‡ This was, of course, at that time quite a gentlemanly occupation. He gave some pictures, Admiral Lestock's watch, and a diamond ring given him by the King of Sardinia, to his younger brother,‡ George Cockburn of Dublin. He died in October 1753—unmarried, according to George; but his widow, Mary Cockburn, got possession of some pay due to him from the Admiralty!§

ARCHIBALD, the second son of Archibald Cockburn and Isobel Butler, was born in September 1703 and baptised the same day.|| In January 1723, when he was described as merchant, he was made a 'Burgess and Guild Brother by right of the deceased Baillie Archibald Cockburn his father.'

As in the case of the elder Archibald, it is hard to say what his exact occupation as merchant was, but that he was successful is confirmed by his having been able, when thirty years of age, to purchase the estate of Cockpen, and soon after the adjoining lands of Masterton.

His partner in business was one John Hope, son of Tho-

* *Newcastle Papers* (Brit. Mus.).

† *Scots Mag.*

‡ *Shanganagh Papers.*

§ *Navy Records.*

|| *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

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mas Hope of Rankeillor,* who became Sir Thomas Hope, seventh baronet of Craighall.† It was due to Sir Thomas Hope's initiative that the lands to the south of Edinburgh, afterwards known as the Meadows and Hope Park, were then laid out. These, of course, nowadays extend far beyond the anticipations of the man who planned them; and Lord Cockburn in his *Memorials* mentions that, when his father bought his house and grounds there about 1785, the whole of the country to the south was open. John Hope married Isabella, daughter of Sir Alexander Bannerman, Baronet, of El-sick, who a few years later raised a regiment in support of Prince Charles Edward, fought at Culloden, and was afterwards obliged to retire to France.

About twenty years after the death of their father Archibald and all his brothers and sisters figure as plaintiffs in a suit‡ against George, Marquis of Annandale, for the repayment of £115, 14s. 3d. due to them (as next-of-kin to their deceased father) by the late Sophia, Marchioness of Annandale (*née* Fairholme), who, as mentioned before, seems to have been a relative.

In 1733 Archibald Cockburn bought 'at public Roup before the Lords of Council and Session' the lands of Cockpen, situated about seven miles south of Edinburgh, 'with the tower, fortalice, manor place, houses, yards, dovecoat parts, pendicles, and whole pertinents'§; while two years later he acquired from Robert Rothead the adjoining lands of Masterton.|| It is thus proven that, contrary to what many of the family have been brought up to believe, Cockpen was not an ancient family inheritance, and in another chapter further particulars of previous owners of these lands

* *Books of Council and Session*, 1763.

† Douglas, *Baronage*.

‡ *City Muniments*, July 1736.

§ Marriage contract, *Reg. Great Seal*, July 1733.

|| *Edin. Sasines*, vol. cxvii. fol. 444. Robert Rothead's daughter Mary, some thirty years later, married Sir James Cockburn, Baronet, of that Ilk.

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will be given. The charter under the Great Seal granting Cockpen to Archibald Cockburn is scarcely worth quoting in full, but it may be noted that the property was 'to be held of the Crown for payment of a red rose at midsummer if asked, and for the teinds and patronage, payment of £10 Scots annually at Whitsunday.'

In 1735 Archibald Cockburn found the lady of his choice, who, unlike her namesake in Lady Nairne's song, was not 'daft,' for she accepted this 'laird o' Cockpen.' Martha Dundas, born in September 1700,* was the daughter of Robert Dundas of Arniston, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and of Margaret Sinclair, his wife. Her father died in November 1726, and was succeeded in his estate of Arniston by his eldest son Robert, who does not seem to have approved of his sister Martha's intended marriage. Writing to his son at Utrecht in August 1735 he says:—

'I have this night got communicated to me by Sir William Cockburn' (Baronet, of that Ilk, whose son, Sir James, married Mary Rothead) 'an intrigue that it seems hath been carried on for some time betwixt Mr. Cockburn of Cockpen and my sister Martha, with my mother's concurrency without paying me that small degree of civility ever to acquaint me of it. In short I suppose it is to be a marriage, and so little to my taste that I could as soon see her drowned. You can judge what good blood this will make in our family, but there is no help for it.'†

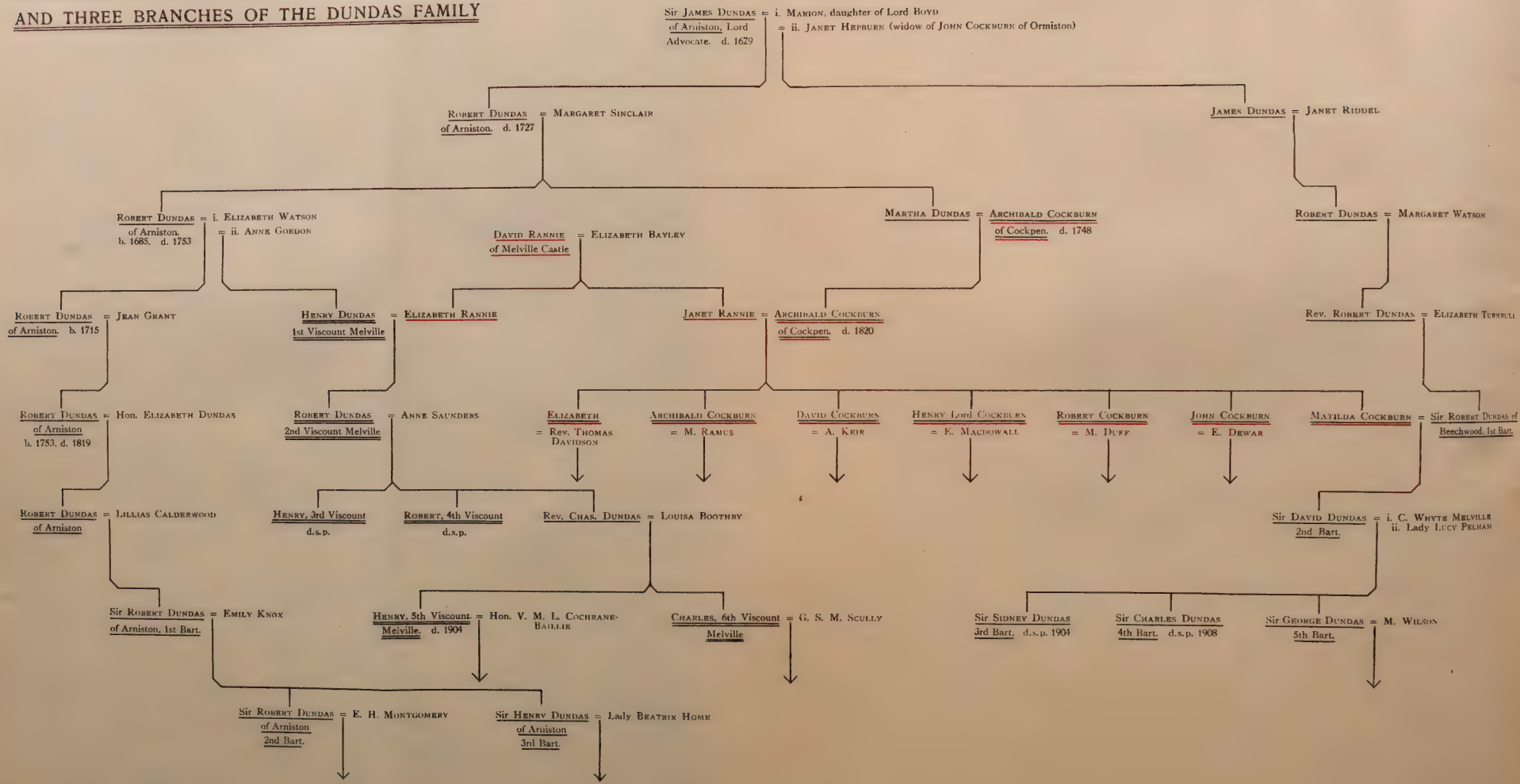
By 'good blood' it is to be presumed that he merely meant the bad feeling which would exist between the families in consequence of his disapproval, as the mother would scarcely have agreed to the alliance if there had been anything detrimental in her prospective son-in-law's character.

Marion Sinclair, one of the aunts of the mother, was wife

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Arniston Memoirs.*

PEDIGREE SHOWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COCKBURNS
AND THREE BRANCHES OF THE DUNDAS FAMILY



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of Sir Archibald Cockburn, Baronet, of Langton, who had been trustee or tutor to Archibald Cockburn's father.

In spite of Robert Dundas's opposition, the wedding took place on 17th August 1735.* From the tone of his letter it is scarcely to be wondered at that his name does not appear as a witness to the marriage contract, but his brother Alexander Dundas signed his name in company with Sir William Cockburn of that Ilk. This contract, it may be mentioned, states that the marriage was made 'with special advice and consent of Mistress Margaret Sinclair Lady Arniston,' the bride's mother. In making arrangements for any children born of the marriage, 'the said Archibald binds and obliges [*sic*] himself and his forsaid to alimnt educate and up-bring them in bed, board, cloats [*sic*] schools, vertue and learning suitable to their quality.' The contract, † which is somewhat lengthy, is not otherwise entertaining, nor worthy of further notice here.

It has been stated ‡ that Archibald kept a journal. This would have been interesting nowadays, but unfortunately it has within the last forty or fifty years been lost. It contained a large number of panegyrics on his wife Martha, who was a beautiful woman, to whom the laird was wholly devoted; but he was also a pious Christian, and he expressed a fear that his admiration of her earthly beauty was leading his thoughts too far astray from things heavenly!

Archibald and Martha had four children: Archibald, Robert, Martha, and Margaret. Robert, however, died in infancy, and Margaret, an invalid, died an old woman, unmarried, on 14th February 1823.§ The surviving children will be noticed presently.

It would have been interesting to know if Archibald Cockburn played any part in the stirring times of the '45 rising,

* *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

‡ Late Alexander Cockburn, Belford Park.

† In possession of H. A. C.

§ *Scots Mag.*

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but neither family papers nor records afford us any clue to that knowledge. As a merchant of Edinburgh, with his business premises in 'Wyllie's Land, now [1763] called Farquhar's Land,'* he was probably in Edinburgh or at Cockpen—only seven miles off—when Prince Charles Edward and his followers took possession of the city on 15th September 1745.

His nearest Cockburn neighbours, his kinsmen, the Cockburns of Ormiston, were then resident in England; the Cockburns of Clerkington, a little further off, were, according to Prince Charles Edward, 'declared enemies,'† or, in other words, loyal to George II.; and there is no record of any Cockburns of importance having sided with the Young Pretender and his cause.

Two and a half years later, on 15th January 1748,‡ this first Cockburn laird o' Cockpen died. He was a comparatively young man, being in his forty-fifth year. His father, too, had died in his forty-fifth year, and his grandfather was only fifty at the time of his death.

His will, made in 1743§ before his younger son Robert died, and proved on 12th August 1748, is interesting and characteristic of the man. After mentioning the sums of money he desired to bequeath to his family, he states by way of apology that his worldly means have been much lessened by 'cautionries' (most probably by giving security for his spendthrift brothers Robert and Captain John). He leaves an annuity of £18 to his 'worthy mother,' besides legacies of £80 each to his sisters Anna and Agnes, and £70 to Robina. Then he gives £30, or 30s. annually, to be expended in providing Bibles, catechisms, and other good books for poor children in the parish of Cockpen, and a yearly mortification of £5, 5s. for 'the preaching of a sermon upon a Mon-

* *Books of Council and Session.*

† *Scots Mag.*

‡ *Grange of St. Giles*, p. 79.

§ *Edin. Tests.*

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day in December annually against the danger of back-sliding through covetousness,' of which he acknowledges himself to have been guilty. Whether, as a matter of fact, unwilling rustics were actually cajoled into attending the kirk on a bleak winter's morning to listen to a wearisome discourse, we are unable to say. The matter is not mentioned in the still extant kirk-session records, where one would have expected to find some notice of the laird's benefaction. The minister at this date was the Rev. John Bonar, who was presented to the church of Cockpen by Archibald Cockburn in 1746, and remained there till he was translated to Perth in 1756.

Cockburn's wife Martha survived him for a good many years. In 1761 she seems to have been living in the Bell Close on the Castle Hill in Edinburgh, as the following advertisement appeared in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* in January of that year:—

'To be exposed to public voluntary roup and sale within Forests Coffee-house upon Wednesday 11th day of February That tenement of land lying on the North side of the Castle Hill of Edinburgh in the Bell Close, as the same is presently occupied by Lady Cockpen and others, of the yearly rental of £14. 10. 0 sterling.'

There can be no doubt that this 'Lady Cockpen' was Martha Cockburn. Of course, she had no recognised title, but no more had her mother, who was described (as quoted before) as 'Lady Arniston.' This advertisement is noted, too, in *Old and New Edinburgh*, and Mr. James Grant has supposed that the lady in question was a Ramsay, believing, like many others, that Cockpen had been in possession of the Dalhousie family from time immemorial.

Strange as it seems now, the upper classes were all living in the Old Town at that time, the New Town being then

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an unmoulded embryo. In this same year, 1761, the town residence of Mr. James Dewar of Vogrie (whose granddaughter Eliza married John, brother of Lord Cockburn) was in the Cowgate, as witness this advertisement, which appears in the same newspaper on 21st January:—

‘To be let and entered to at Whitsunday next, the lodging belonging to James Dewar of Vogrie, consisting of ten fine rooms, kitchen, garret and cellars, being the second floor of the land in the Cowgate entering by the Middle stair near the Meal Market.’

It was shortly before this time that designs for the New Town were projected, though a good many years elapsed before the plans were finally adopted.

As the preservation of the natural beauty of Edinburgh has been so inseparably connected with the name of one member of the family, Lord Cockburn,* it may not be out of place to devote a few lines here to the history of this portion of ‘Modern Athens.’

A *Description of Edinburgh*, published in 1800, tells us that ‘the New Town was first projected in 1752, but as the magistrates could not then procure an extension of the Royalty the execution of the design was suspended for some time.’ However, in May 1767 an Act was obtained† by which the royalty was extended over the fields to the northward of the city, and the plans of Mr. James Craig, architect, were accepted.

The public were then invited to purchase lots from the Town Council, and were obliged to conform to the rules of the scheme. According to the plans held forth to purchasers, a canal was to be made through the place where the North

* The Cockburn Association ‘was formed in 1875 for the purpose of forming a popular association for the preserving and increasing the attraction of the City and its neighbourhood, and to commemorate the exertions made by the late Lord Cockburn to promote these objects.’

† *Sots Mag.*

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Loch had been (now Princes Street Gardens), and the bank on the north side to be laid out in terraces.

But instead of this, by an Act of Council, liberty was secretly reserved to the town to build upon this spot, which was presently 'covered with mean irregular buildings and work houses for tradesmen.' This deviation was immediately complained of by those who had commenced building houses in Princes Street and elsewhere, and an expensive law-suit followed, which ultimately resulted in the defeat of the Town Council.

A plan in this old *Description of Edinburgh* marks the New Town, little more than Princes Street, George Street, Queen Street, and their connections; but it is interesting to note that the first toll out from Edinburgh is shown at the far west end of Princes Street and the corner of what is now Queensferry Street!

With reference to what are now Princes Street Gardens, many years elapsed before the complete drainage of the North Loch was finished. Lord Cockburn in his *Memorials* says that 'the great and indeed vital improvement of enclosing, draining and ornamenting the valley to the west side of the Mound* (a part of the Nor' Loch), for which a statute had been obtained in 1816, was completed in 1820. Its value, or rather its glaring and indispensable necessity can only be understood by those who knew, and who remember what had become the dreadful and apparently hopeless condition of the ground. The place had just been sufficiently drained to prevent its ever again becoming a loch. But it was a nearly impassable fetid marsh, a stinking swamp, open on all sides, the receptacle of many sewers and seemingly of all the worried cats, drowned dogs and blackguardism of the City.'

* The Mound originated in stepping-stones across the marsh; but while the New Town was being built the rubbish from the foundations of the new streets was laid down there, and as augmentations to its height and breadth were continually made till about 1830, it at last became the mass as we know it now.

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And nowadays, owing greatly to the influence of the 'Cockburn Association,' Princes Street Gardens (this 'fetid marsh and stinking swamp'), which were formerly reserved for the use of the proprietors in Princes Street or for such citizens as were able to pay for keys, are open to all the public.

Of the four children of Archibald Cockburn and Martha Dundas, Archibald, the only surviving son, and his sister Martha require separate notice. Archibald was the elder, but it will be more convenient to follow the history of the younger child first. Expediency, if not politeness, cries *place aux dames*.

Martha Cockburn was born on 8th November 1740,* and Lord Arniston seems to have overcome his dislike to the parents' marriage so far as to witness the register of her baptism along with his son Robert. In December 1759† she married John Gloag, merchant in Edinburgh, son of the Rev. Andrew Gloag, minister of West Calder, who was the eldest son of John Gloag, who died in 1674. His brother, the Rev. William Gloag, was in 1758 appointed minister at Cockpen‡ by Archibald Cockburn, with the consent of his mother Martha Dundas, and he remained there till his translation to Lady Yester's Church in Edinburgh in 1767. Martha Cockburn, doubtless, met her husband at his brother's house.

She bore him three children: Thomas, John, and Martha, of whom Thomas, the eldest, became a prominent merchant in Edinburgh, and married Elizabeth McIntosh (whose sister was Mrs. Balfour of Pilrig). They had issue: John (died young), Thomas, and Matilda.

Thomas, the second but only surviving son of Thomas

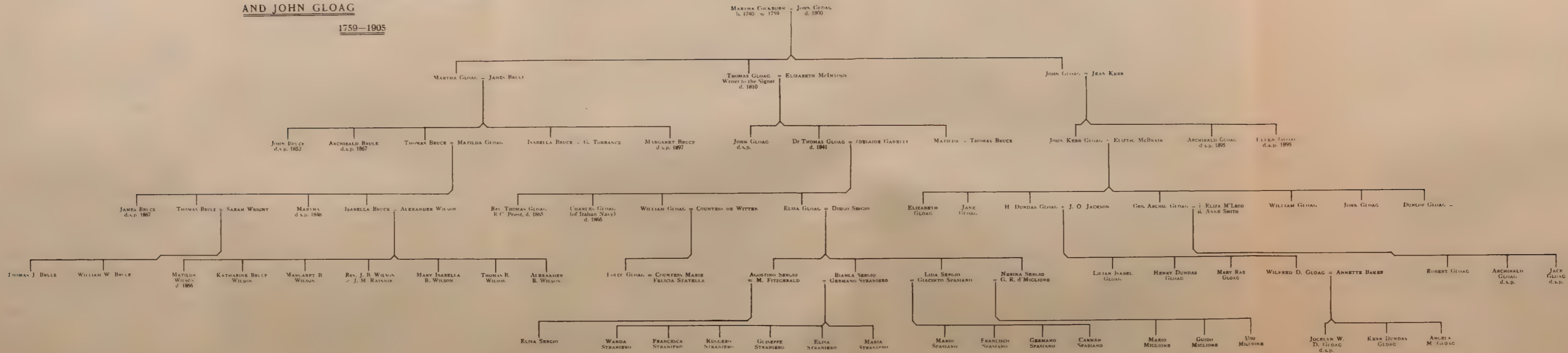
* *Cockpen Reg.*

† *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

‡ *Hist. of Cockpen.*

DESCENDANTS OF MARTHA COCKBURN
 (DAUGHTER OF ARCHIBALD COCKBURN OF COCKPEN)
AND JOHN GLOAG

1759-1905



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Gloag and Elizabeth McIntosh, was of a delicate constitution; he went as a young man to Italy for the sake of his health, and became a doctor in Rome, where he continued to live until his death in 1841. He married Adelaide Garelli, an Italian lady, by whom he had three sons and one daughter.

The eldest son Thomas was educated in England, and became a Roman Catholic priest at Brompton Oratory, but having contracted fever during a visit to Florence in 1865, he died there, a young man.

The second son Charles entered the Italian navy, and was killed in the Austro-Italian War in 1866.

The third son William, formerly an engineer in Rome, married Amelia, Countess de Witten. He has in many ways been of great service to his adopted country, and now, with his wife and one son, Folco Gloag, lives in Naples.

The daughter, Elisa Gloag, married in 1865 Diego Sergio (died 1899), and she (with one son, Agastino Sergio, and three daughters, two of whom are married to Italians) also resides in Naples.

Matilda Gloag, daughter of Thomas Gloag and Elizabeth McIntosh, married her first cousin, James Bruce.

John, the second son of John Gloag and Martha Cockburn, married in 1801 Jean Kerr, and had with other children John Kerr Gloag, born in 1803. John Kerr Gloag married in 1826 Elizabeth McBriar, and they were the parents of the present Captain Henry Gloag and of General Archibald Gloag, R.A.

The Gloags seem to have entirely escaped the memory of those who, some twenty-five years ago, supplied Cockburn statistics for the Dundas of Arniston circle pedigree,

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as no mention is made of Martha Cockburn and her subsequent marriage.

ARCHIBALD, only surviving son of Archibald Cockburn, the first Cockburn laird o' Cockpen, was baptised on 12th December 1738,* and of his earlier years there is little to glean. In July 1762 he was served heir to his deceased father in the lands of Cockpen,† but, as will be seen later, he had to sever his connection with that property some twenty years afterwards.

Stimulated, no doubt, by the success of his mother's family, the Dundases of Arniston, and inheriting perhaps some of their legal instincts, he adopted the law as his profession, and was actively engaged in the affairs of his country for many years.

Beginning his public career at an early age, he was appointed Sheriff-Depute of the County of Edinburgh, 'in the room of Lord Torphichen deceased,' in November 1765, and the *Scots Magazine* for that month says he 'took his seat in Court on 27th.' He was not then twenty-seven years of age! It may be mentioned that his cousin and eventual brother-in-law, Henry Dundas, first Viscount Melville, was appointed Solicitor-General in his twenty-fourth year.

His official position as sheriff brought him more than once into hostile contact with the Edinburgh mob, and one or two of the riots which he played a part in quelling may be mentioned here. In June 1783 there was a disturbance owing to a scarcity of grain; the populace were under the impression that wheat was being wasted in the distilleries, and a mob assembled and attacked Haig's Distillery in Cannonmills. Several persons were killed and many wounded. The *Edinburgh Courant* for 5th June says: 'The Public on this occasion owe much to Mr. (Sheriff) Cockburn for his

* *Cockpen Reg.*

† *Services of Heirs.*

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spirited conduct, under whose direction the Military behaved with that tenderness and moderation so characteristic of true bravery.' Several ringleaders were arrested, and at the trial the judges were 'satisfied that the stories told of Messrs. Haig having been in the practice of distilling from oats, oatmeal, peas, beans, potatoes and other roots were without foundation, false, and calumnious.' The sentences on the ringleaders seem odd nowadays. One Fraser was to be 'imprisoned for three months, banished for life; if ever he returns to be publicly whipt through the streets of Edinburgh, imprisoned and again banished.' Another, Peter McGregor, received practically the same sentence.

In February 1779 Sheriff Cockburn seems to have had trouble with thieves of some sort, but it has not been possible to ascertain the facts. Mrs. Alison Cockburn, authoress of 'The Flowers of the Forest,' writing to her friend, Mr. Douglas, minister at Galashiels, says: 'I send you a ballad composed by Sheriff Cockburn. A report went about for two days that his head was turned. No wonder! such stuff it was! However, you must send it back. He has caught the Robbers, so shall wear bays, though a worse poet I never saw!'

Perhaps the most interesting of these riots was when Archibald Cockburn saved the life of the late W. E. Gladstone's grandfather. The story, in one form or another, was, and is, well known* to a variety of people; but although search has been made diligently no contemporary account can be found, and it is not therefore possible to assign a date to the event. The Gladstones were corn merchants in Leith, and at a time when there was a great scarcity of corn Thomas Gledstones (as the name was then spelt) had stored a large quantity of grain, and resolutely declined to sell it except at what was considered by the people an exorbitant

* See *Reminiscences of a Scottish Gentleman* (Ainslie).

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price. They therefore attacked Gledstanes. Seized by an excited mob, he was taken to Leith harbour, where he would have been summarily drowned had he not been rescued by Sheriff Cockburn, who happened to be riding by at the time.

This is the story as told more than fifty years ago to a great-grandson of this Thomas Gledstanes, who says there is no reason to disbelieve it; but another version, though for various reasons not likely to be strictly accurate, states that Gledstanes was also a baker, who did not as a rule give correct weight, and that on this account he was taken by a 'mad meal mob' to find a watery grave in Leith harbour. A political squib, written some twenty-five years ago, mentions this story in giving particulars of the 'Grand Old Man's' antecedents:—

' To Leith they say from Biggar old Tom came,
And set up as a baker; but perhaps
You may not think he earned a pleasant name,
His fellow-townsmen nick-named him " Licht Baps."

' The Bap for breakfast rolls in time gone by
By law was of a certain weight ordained,
But Tom's baps to the Standard ne'er came nigh,
So he the soubriquet " Licht Baps " obtained.

' When starved stomachs stirred the mad meal mob
They strove to smother Thomas in the sea,
But Sheriff Cockburn did the wild waves rob,
And home again to sell " Licht Baps " went he.

' When from the pier the mob had " Licht Baps " flung,
Cockburn on horseback dashed into the waves,
The poor wretch to his leather-stirrup hung ;
Thus the stout sheriff gallantly him saves.

' A missile on the back the sheriff struck
As to the shore he forced his perilous way
With fierce determination and great pluck ;
The blow he felt until his dying day.'

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In the year 1790 there were several changes in Archibald Cockburn's appointments. In the first place, he was made a Baron of Exchequer, the commission from the King being sealed on 10th June.* The Court of Exchequer consisted of five puisne and one chief baron, and to them was committed the administration of justice in causes between the King and his subjects relative to matters of revenue. The jurisdiction in Scotland was transferred to the Court of Session in 1856. In the same year he resigned the Sheriff-Deputeship of Edinburgh,† in which he was succeeded by John Pringle, Esq.; and as Judge Admiral of Scotland he was replaced by George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq., who some twenty-five years later was created a baronet. He held his appointment as Baron of the Exchequer until 1809, when, being already over seventy years of age, he sent in his resignation.

But though Archibald Cockburn won to honour and high office in the pursuit of his profession, his private affairs went far less propitiously. A few years after his marriage he became involved in a disastrous bank failure, which ultimately forced him to sell Cockpen, the property thus passing out of the family after only two generations.

The Ayr Bank, Douglas Heron & Co., was founded in August 1769, the promoters being 'resolved to establish a Banking Company on a solid, creditable, and respectable footing.' This worthy resolve seems never to have been achieved, for from the beginning the bank was grossly mismanaged, and gradually sank deeper and deeper into debt. There was a fluttering resuscitation in 1771, but after several 'runs' on the bank, which were for a time successfully met, the final collapse came in 1772, bringing down numerous business houses, and ruining a large number of shareholders. Besides Sheriff Cockburn, Henry Dundas, his brother-in-

* In possession of H. A. C.

† *Scots Mag.*

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law, was deeply involved, but he is said to have borrowed on Melville Castle to meet his losses.

It was possibly in consideration of his financial misfortunes that in January 1776 George III. granted a civil list pension of £200 per annum to the sheriff.* In 1789 this was transferred by the King's order to Cockburn's wife Janet, on whose decease (which occurred forty-six years later) the amount was to be annually divided between her four daughters—Elizabeth, Matilda, Margaret, and Anne—'or such of them as be living unmarried.'†

In 1785 Cockpen was sold to George, eighth Earl of Dalhousie, whose ancestors had been connected with the estate from time to time; and Harperdean, which had come to Archibald Cockburn on the death of his uncle Robert, was also sold, the purchaser being Mr. G. Buchan-Hepburn.

The Cockburns then moved to Hope Park, Edinburgh, having purchased the eastmost house on the south side of the Meadows,‡ attached to which were about eight acres of ground. There they remained for the next twenty-two years, till another move was made to Caroline Park, near Granton, a property belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch. It was at Caroline Park that Archibald Cockburn died on 20th June 1820.

Of his grandchildren now (1904) surviving, one§ who remembers him says that when she knew him 'he was an old man—a martyr to gout, and he shouted so and brandished his stick when one came near him, that we children were terrified.'

His son, Lord Cockburn, says: 'He was one of many good fathers who from mere want of consideration and method kept his children at a distance.' Small wonder, then, that

* *Privy Seal Reg.*

† Original in possession of H. A. C.

‡ Lord Cockburn, *Memorials*.

§ Mrs. Henry Dundas, Craighroyston, near Edinburgh (died 1905).



FANNY RANNIE, MRS COCKBURN OF COCKBURN

From Pic

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in his gouty old age he preferred to see his children's children at a distance—with the assistance of a stick!

On 31st December 1768 Archibald Cockburn married Janet Rannie, younger daughter of Captain David Rannie, who had died on 17th November 1764 at Melville Castle, an estate which he had purchased in 1760. The elder daughter, Elizabeth Rannie, married Henry Dundas, afterwards created Viscount Melville. She, however, never enjoyed that title, as he divorced her in October 1778,* more than twenty years before his elevation to the peerage.

The genealogy and origin of the Rannies are somewhat obscure. David Rannie, captain apparently in the merchant service, had amassed a handsome fortune† in the East Indies; and all that is known of his wife is that she was Elizabeth Bayley.‡ There were only two daughters of the marriage, 15th January 1753.§ The elder married Henry Dundas in August 1765,|| and the younger married Archibald Cockburn in December 1768,|| so that they were each only about fifteen years old when they entered the holy estate of matrimony.

From time to time efforts have been made to trace the Rannie pedigree, but it is a difficult problem to solve. Forfarshire seems to have been the cradle of the family in the seventeenth century, and the name is found in records as Rannie, Rennie, Rainey, or Renny. The spelling of the surname was, of course, of little account; and the fact that Mungo and David occur as Christian names time after time in conjunction with all four variations tends to show that there was only one stock, and that the common parentage was not very remote. Amongst wills recorded in Brechin is that of Margaret Gentleman (a strange name for a lady!),

* *Curiosities of a Scots Charter Chest, etc.*

† *Wills, Prerog. Ct. Canterbury.*

|| *Scots Mag., etc.*

† *Scots Mag., 1764.*

§ *India Office Reg.*

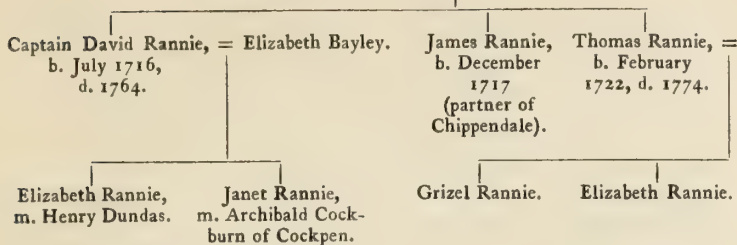
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wife of Mungo Renny in 1621. Other Renny wills were recorded in 1624, and in one of them a John Rennie is mentioned as burghess of Montrose. Fifty years later we find a Patrick Renny, burghess of Edinburgh, and in his will he mentions his sister Jean Rany, and Christopher Ranny, shoemaker in Forfar. About this time a David Renny, brewer and bailie of Portsburgh (Edinburgh), married Jean Ferguson, and they had twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, born between 1691 and 1704. In the following year this David Renny died, and a monument was erected to his memory in St. Cuthbert's Church.* A little later on there were two other Rainnie families in Edinburgh, the respective heads whereof were John, who had by his wife Janet Stark five sons and three daughters, born between 1716 and 1727, and David, who had by his wife Mary Marshall six sons and three daughters, born between 1720 and 1730. In each family Mungo Rainnie, brewer, and David Rainnie frequently appear as witnesses to the baptisms of the children. The task of identification is confusing. It seems also certain, however, that Captain David Rannie of Melville Castle was son of this John Rainnie and Janet Stark. Their eldest son was David, born 1st July 1716, the second James, and the third Thomas; and from his will we know that Captain David did have two brothers, James and Thomas. Captain David's daughters, again, were called Elizabeth and Janet, and nothing would be more natural than that he should name the elder after his wife and the younger after his mother.

* Maitland's *Hist. of Edinburgh*.

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John Rannie, merchant burghess = Janet Stark.
of Edinburgh, d. March 1728.



Of Captain David's brothers we only know that James went to London* and became partner of the celebrated Chippendale, and that Thomas died in 1774,† a merchant in Edinburgh, leaving two daughters, Grizel and Elizabeth.

In addition to these Rannies another branch must be mentioned who were founders about 1715 of the firm of wine merchants, Bell, Rannie & Co., and were later on connected by marriage with the Mures of Caldwell and with the Swintons.

Besides these Edinburgh families there were several Rannies in Montrose, some of whose descendants became merchants in Hamburg and in Riga,‡ besides other families in Falkirk and in East Lothian, from which latter branch the distinguished engineering family of Rennie are descended.

But to return to the Cockburns. As previously mentioned, Archibald Cockburn and Janet Rannie were married on 31st December 1768, and they had a large family, consisting of seven sons and four daughters.§

There had been no contract or settlement made before the marriage, but on 28th February following they were 'determined by these presents to supply that neglect,' and a contract|| was signed on that day, witnessed by Henry

* *Will*, Prerog. Ct. Canterbury.

† *Scots Mag.*, *passim*.

|| In possession of H. A. C.

† *Edin. Tests*.

§ *Lasswade Reg.*

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Dundas, Archibald's cousin, Janet's brother-in-law, and His Majesty's Solicitor-General, along with Robert McQueen (afterwards the distinguished Lord Braxfield) and Robert Sinclair. The document, however, is of no interest.

After her husband's death Janet Rannie continued to live at Caroline Park until her death in March 1835.

It now only remains necessary to particularise the sons and daughters of Archibald Cockburn and Janet Rannie before harking back to George Cockburn of Dublin and his descendants. The order in which these twelve children came into the world is shown by the accompanying table.

Archibald Cockburn = Janet Rannie.					
Elizabeth, b. 1770. Matilda, b. 1772. Margaret, b. 1773. George, b. 1774.	Archibald, b. 1776. David, b. 1778. Henry, b. 1779. Anne.	Robert, b. 1781. John, b. 1784. Montagu, b. 1789. Jane, b. 1802.			

Elizabeth Cockburn, born 5th November 1770, the eldest child, married in August 1798, as his second wife, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Randall Davidson of Muirhouse, near Edinburgh.* Twelve years previously, 20th May 1786 (when she was only sixteen years of age), her marriage to one James Inglis is recorded in the Edinburgh marriage register, but nothing of this prior match is known or remembered nowadays. In the register of the second marriage she is described as Miss Elizabeth Cockburn, eldest daughter, etc. There is no mention of her being Mrs. Inglis, which is strange, if the earlier ceremony actually took place.

Dr. Davidson was born a Randall, but assumed the name of Davidson on succeeding to Muirhouse, the property of his uncle, William Davidson, a retired merchant in Rotterdam, who had bought the estate in 1776 from

* *Cramond Reg. of Marriages.*

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Robert Watson.* Dr. Davidson was at the time of his marriage, and till his death, minister at the Tolbooth Church, Edinburgh, having been transferred from Lady Yester's Church in 1785. He died in October 1827, leaving (with a son William by his first wife) three sons and one daughter: Archibald, David, Henry, and Jane, now represented by a large number of descendants, including His Grace the present Archbishop of Canterbury.

Matilda Cockburn, born 7th February 1772, married in July 1798 Robert Dundas, one of the principal clerks of the Court of Session in Scotland. He was created a baronet in July 1821, and died in 1835, leaving one son, who succeeded as Sir David Dundas, second baronet, and six daughters. This is the third connection by marriage with the Dundas family, and the relationship to the three branches will be most readily understood from the annexed pedigree.

Margaret Cockburn, the third daughter, born 9th April 1773, died unmarried in 1845.

George Cockburn, the eldest son, was born on 15th October 1774. He, however, died in his twenty-first year at Wampoo† in China, though what took him there is not known.

Archibald Cockburn, the second son, was born on 10th September 1776. He, who married Marian Ramus, was in the Bengal Civil Service, and died at Patna in India in September 1812,‡ leaving a son, Henry Philip Cockburn, and a daughter Louisa. His widow married, secondly, in 1821 Captain Edward Stopford, R.N.

David Cockburn, the third son, so named, no doubt, after his grandfather, Captain David Rannie, was born on 9th February 1778, and entered the Madras Civil

* Kay's *Portraits, etc.*

† *Scots Mag.*, 1794.

‡ *Scots Mag.*

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Service. He married, first, Anne Keir, by whom he had an only child, Julianne (who married A. Scott), and, secondly, in January 1815 Lavinia, daughter of General Cuninghame.

Henry Cockburn, the fourth son, born at Hope Park on 26th October 1779, chose the Bar for his profession, and as Lord Cockburn became one of its most distinguished luminaries. For his education he spent some years at the High School, and in 1793 was sent to the College of Edinburgh.* The year 1800 saw him admitted to the Faculty of Advocates; and till his death in 1854 (to quote one of his obituary notices†) he adorned the Bar of Scotland by his eloquence, the Bench by his sagacity, and the society of Edinburgh by his playful and affectionate disposition. In the house of his father, Baron Cockburn, and in the society of his uncle, Henry Dundas, he was brought up in the strictest ways of Toryism, but it soon appeared that his predilections were distinctly Liberal. As a zealous Whig he shared with Jeffrey the leadership of the Scottish Bar, and from 1815 was much engaged as counsel for the defence of prisoners accused of political offences. One of his most effective speeches was in defence of Mr. Stuart of Dunearn on his trial in June 1822 for killing Sir Alexander Boswell in a duel; and another on defending in 1828 Helen McDougal, who was arraigned with Burke and Hare on charges of wholesale murder. In 1830 he was appointed Solicitor-General in Lord Grey's ministry, and the following year he prepared, along with Jeffrey, the Reform Bill for Scotland.

Three years later, in November 1834, he was appointed one of the judges of the Court of Session, a position he held for nearly twenty years, dying on 26th April

* Cockburn, *Memorials*.

† *Edin. Rev.*, 1857.



FRANCIS [unreadable]

[unreadable]

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1854, after a few days' illness, which had commenced while he was on circuit at Ayr.

An article in the *Edinburgh Review* for January 1857 describes him as being

‘rather below the middle height, firm, wiry and muscular, inured to active exercise of all kinds, a good swimmer, an accomplished skater, and an intense lover of the fresh breezes of heaven. His face was handsome and intellectual; a capacious brow, which his baldness made still more remarkable, large, lustrous, and in repose rather melancholy eyes, which, however, when roused by energy or wit, sparkled like a hawk’s.

‘A dash of eccentricity mingled with the originality of his character. Attired with the scrupulous precision of a well-bred man, he set the graces of fashionable dress at defiance. His hat was always the worst, and his shoes, constructed after a cherished pattern of his own, the clumsiest in Edinburgh.’

Lord Cockburn’s portrait by Raeburn is familiar owing to its having been frequently reproduced, but that by Sir John Watson-Gordon is less well known, and has probably never been copied before. It hangs in the National Portrait Gallery of Scotland.

Perhaps one of the most interesting facts connected with it arises from the following story. The artist had stated that he liked to have a child’s opinion of a portrait on completion, and Lord Cockburn accordingly took a little granddaughter, * some eight or nine years of age, to inspect it. On Watson-Gordon asking what she thought of her grandfather’s picture, she examined it all carefully, and remarked in a thoughtful manner: ‘Well! it’s *very* like his boots!’ The latter, we know, were ‘constructed after a cherished pattern of his own.’†

* Now Mrs. Raban.

† *Edin. Rev.*, Jan. 1857.

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It has always been said that his family never thought the likeness a good one as regards facial expression.

On 18th March 1811* he had married Elizabeth Macdowall, eldest daughter of James Macdowall, who was second son of the late William Macdowall of Castle Semple, and auditor of excise in Scotland. Two of her younger sisters were the wives respectively of Lord Dundrennan and Lord Fullerton, the three sisters having married three young advocates, who maintained through life the closest friendship, and all died judges of the Supreme Court of Scotland.

The Macdowalls were a very old Galloway family, the principal branches being Macdowalls of Garthland (and Castle Semple), Macdowalls of Logan, and Macdowalls of Freugh. From Nisbet's *System of Heraldry*, published in 1722 (the second volume in 1742), there seems to have been at that time a regular contest for precedence, each family claiming to be chief; but so little was actually proved that perhaps it is unnecessary to discuss the question here.

The name is said to mean the 'Son of Black Alan' (Mac Dhu Alan), † Black Alan having been Prince of Galloway in 230 B.C., from which date it is alleged that the lineage of the family commences. ‡ A namesake in comparatively more modern times, Alan, Lord of Galloway, had by his second wife Margaret a daughter Devorgilla, who married John Baliol and became the mother of John Baliol, the competitor for the crown of Scotland. § From 230 B.C. up to 1295

* *Scots Mag.*

† *Hereditary Sheriffs of Galloway*, 1864.

‡ In point of antiquity this date is utterly eclipsed by the Macnab of that ilk who repudiated the idea that they were descended from one of the sons of Noah, and claimed to have had a boat of their own at the time of the Flood. In the base of their escutcheon they carry 'an open boat, oars in motion, on a sea proper,' no doubt as proof of the assertion. (Seton, *Heraldry of Scotland*; Burke, *General Armoury*.)

§ *Caledonia* (new ed., 1889), vol. v. p. 369.



EDZARITH M. MADWALL, MRS. CHALKER
PORTRAIT BY Wm. F. THOMAS, 1850

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there seems, however, to be a somewhat prominent blank in the genuine pedigree. But from this latter date the Macdowalls of Garthland continue in an unbroken line* from father to son or grandson down to August 1775, when Colonel William Macdowall died unmarried at Harrogate.† Fifteen years previously he had sold Garthland to his cousin, William Macdowall of Castle Semple (Renfrew), an estate bought by his father in 1727, and William as nearest heir became chief of the family in 1775. This laird of Garthland and Castle Semple married in 1748 Elizabeth, daughter of James Graham of Airth, and they had, besides five other sons, William, James, and Day Hort Macdowall. From this youngest son the present Henry Macdowall of Garthland is descended.

William, the eldest son of William Macdowall and Elizabeth Graham, died without issue in 1810. The next heirs were his nephews William and Laurence (sons of his brother James), and as they both died without issue (the latter in 1842) the estate went to their cousin, Lieutenant-General Day Hort Macdowall, and afterwards to his younger brother Henry, father of the present proprietor.

James, the second son of William Macdowall and Elizabeth Graham, was twice married: first, to Miss Isobel Peters, and secondly, to Miss Margaret Jameson. He had eleven sons, two of whom, as mentioned above, succeeded to Garthland, and six daughters; but all died without issue, except three of the daughters, the wives respectively of Lord Cockburn, Lord Dundrennan, and Lord Fullerton. Their father, James Macdowall, was a prominent citizen of Glasgow, one of the wealthy merchants, and at one time Provost of the City. Reverse of fortune, however, came to him, and his eldest brother, William of Garthland, and his younger brother, Day Hort Macdowall, became involved in his failure. Garth-

* *Hereditary Sheriffs of Galloway.*

† *Scots Mag.*

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land in Galloway, Castle Semple in Renfrew, and Walkinshaw (which latter estate belonged to Day Hort Macdowall), were all sold. The lands of Barr, however, adjoining Castle Semple, were retained, and were eventually named Garthland, after the old family estates in Wigtownshire, and are now held by Mr. Henry Macdowall, grandson of Day Hort Macdowall.

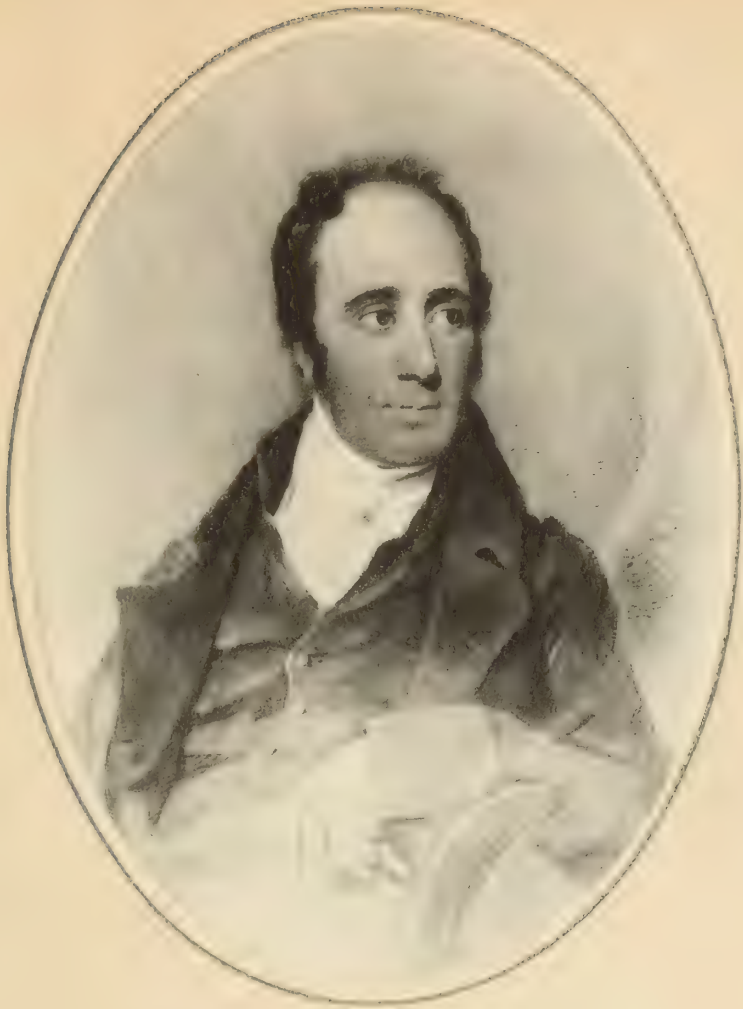
It has been stated above that James Macdowall's second wife, the mother of Lord Cockburn's wife, was Margaret Jameson. She came from Virginia, the daughter of a Niel Jameson who afterwards settled in New York. Diligent search has been lately made in Virginia to ascertain to which branch of the Jameson family (some of whom were prominent at the time) he belonged, but the result has been fruitless.

Of Lord Cockburn, who, as mentioned, died in April 1854, and his wife there is but little necessary to add in these pages, except the fact that she died on 21st December 1857. Particulars of their descendants are given in pedigree form.

Robert Cockburn, the fifth son, born 22nd March 1781, married* on 1st November 1805 Mary Duff, eldest daughter of the late Alexander Duff of Hatton. She was well known in her day as the first love of Lord Byron, who left it on record that he nearly had a fit on hearing that she had married. They were mere children at the time of his infatuation, and he himself said that he could not understand how his love originated at such an early age. In his journal he wrote:—

‘Hearing of her marriage several years after was like a thunder stroke, it nearly choked me, to the horror of my mother and the astonishment and utmost incredulity of everybody. I really cannot account for my feelings at that moment but they nearly

* *Scots Mag.*



JOHN B. ...
... ..



MISS MARY ANN BERRY (1810-1880)
Engraving by J. G. Thompson

COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN

threw me into convulsions, and alarmed my mother so much that after I grew better she generally avoided the subject.'

Some years before his marriage Robert Cockburn had commenced business as a wine merchant in Leith along with his younger brother John. In Waterloo year he founded in Oporto the firm of Port-wine Shippers; but the brothers remained partners in Leith until 1831, when John Cockburn established in Edinburgh the firm of J. Cockburn & Campbell.

At the time of his marriage Robert Cockburn lived in Castle Street, Edinburgh, but later on he moved to 7 Atholl Crescent. Sir Walter Scott in his journal notes that he dined with them there in November 1825, adding that the company included Lord Melville and family, Sir John and Lady Hope, Lord and Lady R. Kerr, and others. His entry in his journal for the next day says:—

'I had a bad fall last night coming home. There were unfinished houses at the east end of Atholl Place and I crossed the street to avoid the material which lay about; but deceived by the moonlight, I stepped ankle deep in a sea of mud (honest earth and water, thank God), and fell on my hands. Luckily Lady Scott had retired when I came home, so I enjoyed my tub of water without either remonstrance or condolences. Cockburn's hospitality will get the benefit and renown of my downfall, and yet has no claim to it.'

The concluding sentences almost seem to suggest that Sir Walter had a guilty conscience! Robert Cockburn, who died in 1844, had by his wife Mary Duff five sons and one daughter. The two elder sons were in their father's business; while the third, John Montague, went to South Africa, married, and left seven sons and daughters,

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all of whom are married in Natal, and have children. The fourth son, Robert, entered the Royal Navy. In 1836 he served in an expedition sent to explore the River Euphrates with a view to making it a route to our Indian Empire. The *Tigris*, however, one of two ships carrying the explorers, was lost in a hurricane, and Robert Cockburn was one of those who perished. The fifth son, Garden Duff Cockburn, died young on 4th May 1819,* and the only daughter, Helen, married Admiral Hugh Dunlop. (*Vide* circle pedigree.)

John Cockburn, the fifth son, was born on 8th March 1784, and, as stated above, became a wine merchant, first in partnership with his brother Robert, and latterly, since 1831, with James Campbell, son of Sir Archibald Campbell, second baronet of Succoth.

On 21st September 1821 he married Eliza, youngest daughter of James Dewar of Vogrie, near Gorebridge, by whom he had eight sons and six daughters. Six of the children, however, died young.

The Dewars, an old family, hailing from the parish of Heriot in Midlothian, have been proprietors of Vogrie for two hundred years or more, and it is interesting to note that Vogrie had previously for some sixty or seventy years been in the possession of the Cockburns. (*Vide* Ormiston pedigree.)

John Cockburn died on 22nd May 1862 and Mrs. Cockburn in October 1884.

Montagu Cockburn, sixth and youngest son of Baron Archibald Cockburn and Janet Rannie, born 31st January 1789, settled in India, where he acquired estates. He married twice: first, Miss C. Keir, and secondly, Miss J. Lascelles. By his first wife he had five sons, and by the second two sons and two daughters.

* *Scots Mag.*



CAROLUS AUGUSTUS

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Jane, the youngest child, was born in 1802, and died unmarried the day before her brother John Cockburn, 21st May 1862.

It is unnecessary perhaps to particularise further the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Baron Archibald Cockburn and Janet Rannie, as their names all appear in the pedigrees.

We must now refer back to George Cockburn, youngest brother of the first Cockburn laird o' Cockpen, and to his descendants.

GEORGE, youngest son of Archibald Cockburn and Isobel Butler, was baptised on 10th January 1712. To him and to his son, General Sir George Cockburn of Shanganagh Castle, Dublin, we owe much for many particulars of the family; but it is greatly to be regretted that they were not more prolific in their statements as to the antecedents of their forbears.

George left Scotland in 1739 and settled in Ireland, being described as a merchant, and 'of 55 Cavendish Street, Dublin.' Unlike his eldest brother Robert, he seems to have been a successful man of business, and to have acquired a considerable amount of property, for on his death his landed estate was worth over £30,000.

In 1761 he married Anne Caldwell (his junior by twenty-six years), daughter of Charles Caldwell. Their married life, however, did not last long, as she died on 26th April 1769, 'leaving him most deplorable with one son George,' as the father somewhat ambiguously records.*

Four months later, 17th August, he wrote the following letter to his nephew, Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen. The spelling is so peculiar that it is copied exactly as he wrote it:—

* *Shanganagh Papers.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

‘MY DEAR ARCHD.—

‘As we may possibly never meet again, I think it proper to acquaint you that I have made my will, one copy of which is in the hands of my Bankier, Messrs. Gleadowe & Co. of Dublin, sealed up and directed, the other of the same tenor and date lys in my iron chist in Cavendish Street.

‘I here inclose a state of my present fortune; it is short, clear, and distinct, by which you’ll have very little trouble, as these last years past has been taken up in clearing every matter rather than looking for increase.

‘Should my little fellow* in his infant years be left fatherless, from the love his mother bore you and from the distinction I have made in appointing you my second son, I rest satisfied that love, affection and gratitude will stimulate you in directing such an education as may render him fitt for the enjoyments of his fortune.

‘As reward for my services and attachment to a certain Illustrious family, a mark of distinction is intended for me, and if agreeable to you I will endeavour to get your name in the Patent.

‘God bless and preserve you, and believe there is no one loves you better then

‘Your devoted

‘GEORGE COCKBURN.’

Who the ‘Illustrious family’ was is not known, nor was the mark of distinction ever conferred.

George Cockburn died in 1774.

GEORGE COCKBURN, the only son of the last named, was born in Dublin on 18th February 1764. On his father’s death, ten years later, he was brought up and educated by his uncle, Andrew Caldwell (his mother’s brother), who, living in Ireland, was naturally more in touch with him than the other guardian, his cousin, Archibald, Sheriff Cockburn of Cockpen.

* His son George, then in his seventh year, who died in 1847, aged eighty-three.

COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN

He was sent to school in due course, and there was frequent correspondence between his two guardians.* Amongst other matters mentioned, Irish poplins* seem to have been in great demand, as most of the letters from Dublin state that the poplins will be sent to Scotland as soon as the opportunity occurs.

George seems at an early age to have inclined towards a military career, and as he ultimately reached the highest ranks in that service, his guardian, Andrew Caldwell, had he lived long enough, would, no doubt, have come to regard his nephew's choice of profession with more favour than he at first manifested towards it. In April 1778 he wrote to his co-trustee:—

‘I have had two letters from George declaring the greatest aversion to learning Latin and Greek and wishing to go into the army. This vexes me beyond anything you can conceive but for some years I will be peremptory. . . . But in other respects it may turn out better and *infinitely* cheaper than having him here.’

In spite of his uncle's lack of enthusiasm, George had his way, and in 1781 entered the first regiment of Guards. The following year he went to Gibraltar, where he acted as A.D.C. to General Eliott during the famous siege. For his services he was promoted captain in the hundred and fifth in 1784, and transferred in the following year to the sixty-fifth, then quartered in Dublin. His colonel, Lord Harrington, sent him in several successive years to study the manœuvres in foreign countries, and he visited Prussia, Austria, France, and Spain.

In 1793 he was transferred to the ninety-second, of which he purchased the lieutenant-colonelcy. He was afterwards promoted colonel, and in 1803 became major-general.

* Letters in possession of H. A. C.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

In 1808 he seems to have been quartered at Chelmsford, but was anxious to obtain a staff appointment in or near Dublin, so that he could look after his private affairs. He writes in that year to his cousin and former guardian, Archibald Cockburn, late of Cockpen, asking a favour, 'the first in my life and probably the last.' He had applied for an appointment in Dublin, but 'some malicious person has taken pains to misrepresent me to the Duke of Richmond' (the Lord-Lieutenant); and he finishes his letter:—

'Now my favour from you is to ask Lord Melville or the Duchess of Gordon or *both* to write to the Duke and ask him to recommend it. You may assure them that if he has heard anything prejudicial to me, it is false, and he has been as much deceived as I have been ill used.'

In the summer of 1801 his uncle, Andrew Caldwell, died, leaving a considerable amount of money. George received a legacy, but seems to have been much hurt at not being more substantially remembered. He writes to Archibald Cockburn:—

'I think he might have paid me the compliment of [leaving me] the pictures—indeed considering our long intimacy and connection and the affection he always expressed for me—the quantity of money he had, and the very great losses I suffered by his mismanagement and neglect of my father's trustee, I think the legacy *to me* very small indeed.'

He does not seem to have been successful in procuring an appointment in Ireland, for he was next in command of a northern district, and was subsequently sent to Sicily and Gibraltar; after which he published two elaborate volumes on his travels.

About 1812 he settled down at Shanganagh Castle, an estate close to Dublin, which he had purchased, and began

COCKBURNS OF COCKPEN

to devote himself to politics. In 1821 he was made K.C.H. by George IV., and in 1837 William IV. made him G.C.H.

By the time he had reached his sixty-fourth year he seems to have overcome his schoolboy aversion to Latin, for he was deeply interested in the disputed question of the route by which Hannibal crossed the Alps. He himself remarked: 'When we are so inundated with investigations by Polybius and Livy and in modern times by Wickham of Oxford, De Lac, Whittaker and others, it may be asked what further light can I throw on the subject? Now my answer is:—"I discard Livy and I don't agree with Whittaker."'

Some schoolboy is said to have translated *Hannibal transivit Alpes summâ diligentîâ* by 'Hannibal crossed the Alps on the top of an omnibus'! Even this information would not have been sufficient for Sir George. Having studied all the known authorities, he decided to investigate the question on the spot. On 1st October 1842, therefore, he set out, with the purpose of satisfying at least his own curiosity. Following the route most carefully from Spain into Italy, he became thoroughly convinced that the Carthaginian general had crossed the Alps by way of the Little St. Bernard. He published an account of his investigations in 1845 in a book of miscellaneous pamphlets, which included his elucidation of the mystery of the Iron Mask, his opinions as to the authorship of *Letters of Junius*, some political memoranda, and other papers.

When he died in August 1847 he was fourth general in seniority in the British Army. On 8th March 1792 he had married at Clonmal his first cousin Elizabeth, daughter of Phineas Rial. By her he had four daughters and two sons, the eldest of whom, the Rev. George Cockburn, died at Shanganagh in 1854, and the other, Phineas, in 1879, neither of them leaving issue.

His eldest daughter Catherine married Captain Gawen

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Rowan Hamilton, and their eldest grandson, Colonel Rowan Hamilton, is now proprietor of Shanganagh Castle. His eldest sister is the present Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin.

The second daughter, Elizabeth, married Captain Heyman, their family now being represented by seven grandchildren. Sir George Cockburn's two remaining daughters (one of whom married a Mr. Crawford) died without issue.

The personal history of this branch of the family, brought down to the period of the grandparents of most of us, is now concluded, and it has entailed diligent and incessant research in the registers and records of various parts of the Lothians.

The earlier investigations were especially difficult, but perseverance has proved successful in showing undeniable evidence of our descent from the days of Flodden and before—a gratifying termination, and at any rate a harmless form of vanity. The course of genealogical research is often tortuous and slow, but we have succeeded in unearthing the names of numerous long-forgotten ancestors and their relatives, although in many instances it would have been more instructive to have had fuller details of their personality and occupations.

It is often difficult to collect facts, and many people are totally unable to supply information even of their grandparents. One grand-daughter* of Baron Cockburn, when asked some twenty-five years ago for particulars of her forbears for inclusion in the Dundas of Arniston circle pedigree, wrote:—

‘I pity you with your difficult undertaking; facts and truths are so hard to get. For myself I know that I am descended from Adam or Noah, that I am made of dust and expect to return to the same. I care nothing for

* The late Mrs. George Cockburn (*née* Davidson) of Randolph Place, Edinburgh.

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antiquities except that I know I am becoming one myself, and this I realise full well.'

There are many who treat with apathy all that relates to their forefathers, but it is hoped that this account may prove interesting to others who find the subject attractive. In conclusion, perhaps a few, if seemingly frivolous lines, from an early effort of Sir George Trevelyan's pen,* may amuse the former:—

'We much revere our sires, who were a mighty race of men,
For every glass of Port we drink, they nothing thought of ten.
They lived above the foulest drains; they breathed the closest air;
They had their yearly twinge of gout, but little seemed to care.'

** Ladies in Parliament.*

COCKBURNS OF THE KIRKLANDS OF BOLTON & THEIR DESCEND- ANTS

BOLTON, now a parish in East Lothian, lying to the south of Haddington, was one of the three principal properties belonging to Sir William Vipont, whose daughter Mariota married Alexander Cockburn, the other two being Langton in the Merse (Berwickshire) and Carriden in what is now Linlithgowshire. Unlike Langton and Carriden, however, Bolton does not appear to have been part of Mariota's dowry; although Mr. Hood in the *House of Cockburn* declares that it was, and that it afterwards became the patrimony of Mariota's second son, John Cockburn, who in 1368 married Joneta Lindsay, heiress of Ormiston.

The fact that in 1388, some fifty years after the Cockburn-Vipont marriage, a certain Alan of Bolton was acting as deputy to Alexander Cockburn (of Langton), who was 'Custumar' of Haddington,* and that Alan was a usual name in the Vipont family, would suggest the inference that Bolton at that date still belonged to the Viponts. But this must be regarded as very doubtful, for only a year later, 1389, the lands of Bolton were in the possession of Sir John Haliburton, Knight.† Later on the Hepburns, Earls of Bothwell, became proprietors,‡ and in 1568, when John Hepburn of Bolton was executed for complicity in the murder of Darnley, the manor of Bolton was given to William Maitland of Lethington.

It was not this property, however, which came into the hands of the Cockburns, and its descent is only mentioned here to show that the family had a sort of indirect connection with the parish long before they became possessed of land there.

* *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. v. p. 191. The 'custumar' was the official appointed in each burgh to see to the levying of duties which made up the customs.

† *Cal. Doc. rel. to Scotland*, vol. iv. No. 391. ‡ Chalmers, *Caledonia*, vol. ii. p. 437.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

The lands which they actually did acquire were *terræ ecclesiasticæ et glebæ*, known as the Kirklands of Bolton, granted to LAURENCE COCKBURN by a charter dated 16th January 1553(-4) from Andrew Simpson, perpetual vicar of the church, and confirmed by the King at Dalkeith on 14th March 1575-6.*

Who this Laurence Cockburn was it is difficult to say. It is the earliest instance in which this Christian name is found attached to a Cockburn, but he is believed to have been connected with the Cockburns of Ormiston. Laurence was about that time a not infrequent name in the Crichton family, and it may be that Laurence Cockburn was descended from John Cockburn of Ormiston and his wife Margaret Crichton. Little at any rate is known of Laurence Cockburn, except that he died in February 1581, having married Helen Sinclair,† a daughter of John Sinclair of Blans, and Katherine Cockburn, his wife. By her he had issue: John, his heir, and Patrick, Vicar of Stitchell, who proved his father's will in October 1583.‡

JOHN COCKBURN succeeded his father in the Kirklands of Bolton, and married Margaret Veitch or Vache,§ having by her Henry, his heir; John; Laurence, afterwards surgeon burghess of Edinburgh; James; and the Rev. Thomas, Vicar of Stitchell.

John Cockburn died before June 1596.||

HENRY COCKBURN, the eldest son, succeeded to the Kirklands of Bolton, and married Elizabeth Sinclair,¶ widow of James Cockburn of Monkrig (a cadet of the Clerkington family), by whom he had at any rate one son, Henry.

In 1617 he sold the Kirklands of Bolton to George Butler,

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 2532.

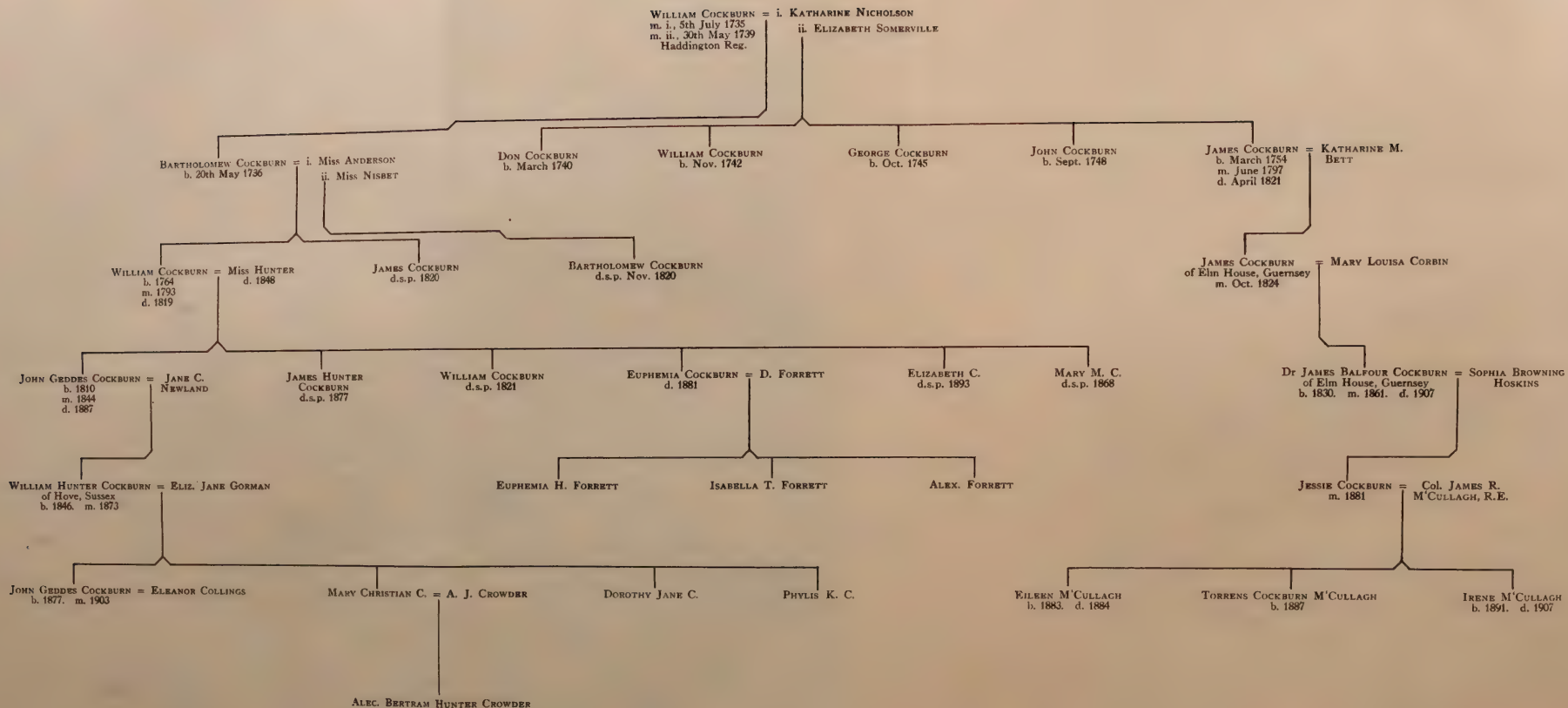
† *Edin. Tests.*

|| *Prentice Rolls*, Edin.

† *Ibid.*

§ *Reg. P. C.*, vols. lxi.-lxxi.

¶ *Acts and Decrees*, Feb. 1623.



THE KIRKLANDS OF BOLTON

described as servitor to the Lord of Yester,* related probably to the Butlers who some years later became possessed of Harperdean. (*Vide* family of Cockburns of Cockpen.)

Though landless, the family were still connected with their neighbouring town, and HENRY COCKBURN became Provost of Haddington on several occasions. He married Agnes, daughter of John Sleigh,† and by her had a son William, of whom all that is known is that in 1696 he returned from the West Indies. As shown in the chapter on 'Cockburns Abroad,' there were two or three families resident in Jamaica, from one of which the late Dr. James Balfour Cockburn of Elm House, Guernsey, and Mr. William Cockburn of Brighton are descended. It is possible that this William Cockburn was forbear of their first proved ancestor, William Cockburn, who married Elizabeth Somerville at Haddington in 1739, but it will be noticed that there is an unfortunate hiatus of some forty years. Dr. James Balfour Cockburn had in his possession a very old seal bearing the Cockburn of Ormiston arms, with a heart on the fesse chequy for difference, from which it would appear that the first owner of the seal knew of some descent from Ormiston, which may have been through the family which once owned the Kirklands of Bolton.

Being unable to trace, with any certainty, the main line of this now landless family, we must return to Laurence Cockburn, second son of John Cockburn of the Kirklands of Bolton and Margaret Veitch, many of whose descendants became men of mark.

Laurence Cockburn, who must have been born towards the latter end of the sixteenth century, chose surgery as his profession, and evidently became proficient therein. In June 1613 he was apprenticed to James Henderson, surgeon, for

* *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. vii. No. 1682.

† *Mackenzie Deeds*, 10th Sept. 1697.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

five years,* and before his term was up, in December 1617, he married his master's daughter, Helen Henderson.†

It was the custom in olden days for younger sons of even 'gentle' families to be regularly apprenticed to some professional man, or tradesman, for a set term of years, to be taught to earn their own living in some way or other. For instance, in June 1595 Laurence's brother John, 'son to deceased John Cockburn of the Kirklands of Bolton,' was apprenticed for five years to William Symonton, saddler—a seemingly humble occupation for a son of the Sheriff-Depute of Haddington! Nearly a hundred years later we even find James, lawful son to Sir Alexander Cockburn of Langton, Baronet, apprenticed to John Jossie, an apothecary of Edinburgh!‡

Laurence Cockburn succeeded so well in his profession that in 1629-30 he was appointed Dean, or Chief Officer, of the College of Surgeons. Maitland in his *History of Edinburgh*, 1753, tells us that the surgeons were the first, *i.e.* principal, company of crafts in Edinburgh, and, according to the custom of other European nations, were incorporated with the barbers. Their first charter was dated October 1506, and for over two hundred years, till 1722, the surgeons and barbers worked together harmoniously, more or less. In this year, however, the barbers were granted a separate charter, owing to complaints being made that they practised surgery.

Laurence Cockburn the surgeon died in February 1632, at what must have been a comparatively early age. Of James, his eldest son by Helen Henderson, nothing is known, except that he is mentioned in his father's will, as are the other children of the marriage: John, Patrick, Harrie, and a daughter Jean.§

* *Prentice Rolls.*

† See Cockburns in Jamaica.

‡ *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

§ *Edin. Tests.*

THE KIRKLANDS OF BOLTON

JOHN COCKBURN, the second son, became a tailor in the Canongate*—another instance of a young man of good family taking up a lowly trade, probably without loss of caste. On 22nd February 1644 he married Sarah Inglis,† by whom he had James‡; Laurence,‡ born June 1649; Helen; Sarah; John‡ (of whom later); and a posthumous daughter, Grizel,‡ born in July 1658.

In January 1655 he was made a burghess of Edinburgh, and about three years later, in April 1658, he joined the majority.§

JAMES COCKBURN,|| the eldest son, was born in July 1648, and on 15th June 1661, before he had reached his fourteenth year, was apprenticed to David Boig, goldsmith.¶ He is next heard of in June 1669, when he is ordered to make for his essay, preliminary to his admission as a burghess of the guild, ‘a silver bowl with a cover either chased or graven and a plain gold ring to be presented at next quarter-day.’ That his efforts met with approbation is evident from the fact that on 7th July he was made burghess.

The goldsmiths of that date cannot be compared with the goldsmiths and jewellers of to-day. Besides being goldsmiths in the ordinary sense, they were also bankers, and therefore of considerable standing. A modern writer states that ‘they were deemed a superior class of tradesmen and were wont to appear in public with cocked hats, scarlet cloaks and gold-mounted canes as men of undoubted consideration.’

From 1686 to 1688 James Cockburn was Dean of the Company of Goldsmiths, and he made communion cups for the

* *Guild Roll of Edin.*, Jan. 1655.

† *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

‡ *Canongate Reg. Bapt.*

§ *Edin. Tests.*

|| Mr. Hood in his *House of Cockburn* has made most extraordinary mistakes about this James Cockburn, but they chimed aptly with his purpose of proving that Sir James Cockburn of that Ilk (a totally different person) never existed.

¶ *Guild Roll of Edin.*, July 1669.

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following churches:—Wemyss, 1673; Longformacus, 1674; Auchtermuchty, 1686; Cockpen, 1686; Sprouston, 1687; Rosemarkie, 1689; Benholm, 1690; Drumelzier, 1694 and 1698; Petermain, 1696.

His first wife was Katherine Balcanquel, a daughter of Balcanquel of that Ilk, by whom he had four children: John,* born in April 1674; Sarah* in June 1675; Catherine* in July 1676; and Jean* in October 1677. About that time his first wife must have died, as on 9th August 1678 he married Magdalen Scott,† only daughter of William Scott of Bonnytown. By her he had a large family*:—

William, born 26th December 1679, entered the Church, and married on 19th April 1702 Elizabeth, daughter of David Hepburn, by whom he had three daughters: Margaret, Janet, both of whom were living in 1778, when they were retoured heirs of their mother,‡ and Jacobina, who was alive in 1764.

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of James Cockburn the goldsmith and Magdalen Scott, was born in November 1680, and married John Hepburn of Humbie, by whom she had at any rate two daughters: Helen and Elizabeth Hepburn, mentioned in the disposition of their uncle Archibald Cockburn in 1750.§

James was born in October 1681, and apparently died young.

John Cockburn, born in December 1682, entered the East India Company's service, and in his will, dated 1720, was described as of the *Prince Frederick*. He left his belongings to his two brothers, Laurence and James.

Archibald, born in May 1684, must have died young, as the youngest of the family was in 1698 given the same name.

* *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

† *Services of Heirs.*

‡ *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

§ *Dalrymple Deeds*, vol. clxviii., Sept. 1750.

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Robert was born in February 1687, and nothing else is known of him.

Laurence, born in June 1688, migrated to England, and was described as of Bedford Bury, St. Martins-in-the-Fields, London.*

James, born in September 1690, became a goldsmith in London, and is mentioned in the will of his brother John.

George, baptised 3rd June 1697, and Archibald in October 1698, complete the number of sons, and there were three other daughters.

Of these sons we know that William left three daughters, as mentioned above; and it is possible that Laurence, James, George, and Archibald married and left descendants, but this has not been proved.

James Cockburn, the goldsmith of Edinburgh, died in October 1700, and was buried in Old Greyfriars kirkyard on 1st November.

We must now return to John Cockburn, third son of John Cockburn and Sarah Inglis, youngest brother of James the goldsmith, who was for many years an interesting figure in religious and political circles.

He was born in Edinburgh in April 1652,† and after studying at the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen was ordained by his uncle, Patrick Scougall, Bishop of Aberdeen, in 1675. The exact relationship is uncertain, but presumably Scougall married as his first wife a Cockburn or an Inglis, for he had a son Henry, born in 1650, and his only recorded marriage took place with Ann Congalton ten years later.

In 1676 Cockburn became minister of Udney in Aberdeenshire, and in 1681 of Old Deer. Two years later he was presented with the living of Ormiston by Adam Cockburn

* Brother John's will ?

† *Canongate Reg. Bapt.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

of Ormiston, but was deprived of it in 1689 by the Privy Council, because instead of praying for King William and Queen Mary he prayed for King James and confusion to his enemies.

He then went over to France, and attended the court of King James II. at Versailles.* He seems to have been on intimate terms with His Majesty, for in one of his numerous published works he states, in contravention of a report that King James was of a very unhealthy constitution, that he frequently had the opportunity of seeing the King 'shifted after hunting,' and having 'viewed his whole body, never saw a more cleanly complexion nor a purer skin.'

We next hear of him in Rotterdam and Amsterdam, where, having founded the English Episcopal Church, he lived for a number of years. Among the MSS. in the British Museum are a quantity of letters written about 1707 to Lord Nottingham, principally on political affairs. In 1709 he left Amsterdam, and, returning to England, was presented by Dr. Robinson, Bishop of London, with the living of Northall or Northolt in Middlesex, where he resided until his death on 20th October 1729. He was buried in the chancel of the church which he had served for twenty years. He seems to have taken a great interest in the welfare and history of the district, writing in the records, still extant, an exact statistical and ecclesiastical account of his parish.

The article on the Rev. John Cockburn in the *Dictionary of National Biography* seems to a great extent to be based on an appreciation written in the parish records by his successor, which unfortunately is not quite true. The writer states that he was 'son of a gentleman of some estate in Scotland,' whereas we know that he was son of John Cockburn, whose only 'estate' was a tailor's shop in the Canon-gate of Edinburgh! His relationship to his 'uncle,' Bishop

* *A Specimen of Some Free and Impartial Remarks.*



CATHARINE COCKBURN

CATHERINE TROTTER AND MARY WELLS. 1790.

THE KIRKLANDS OF BOLTON

Scougall, is wrongly represented, it being affirmed that his mother was the prelate's sister. There is no evidence that he had eighteen children, nine by each of his two wives. All the offspring of whom there is any record are, by his first wife, Anna Garden, Patrick, Magdalene, James, paymaster to the Royal Artillery, and in 1712 secretary to the Duke of Argyll, Commander-in-Chief in Scotland,* and Marie; and by his second wife, whom he calls simply Elizabeth, seven children, four of whom, daughters, were alive in October 1719 when he made his will. According to the record at Northolt, the second wife was Elizabeth Littlepage, whom he married about 1697 during his residence abroad. A large number of his sermons, tracts, and books were published during his life, and many of them are still to be found from time to time in second-hand booklists. In one of them, quoted above, *Some Free and Impartial Remarks on Public Affairs*, there are some interesting particulars of the early career of Bishop Burnet, to whom John Cockburn seems to have had a great antipathy from his youth up. Another curious work is a *History of Duels*.

PATRICK COCKBURN, his eldest son, was also a prominent divine in his day. He was born at Udny in Aberdeenshire in 1678, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where the degree of M.A. was conferred on him in 1705.

In 1708 he married Catharine Trotter (daughter of David Trotter, a captain in the Royal Navy), a celebrated writer, of whom more anon. It is curious that two contemporary Patrick Cockburns, the other being the son of Adam, Lord Ormiston, should have each married ladies of literary attainments.

In 1712 he was curate in charge of Nayland, and two years later of St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, but he lost his

* D'Alton's *Army Lists*, and *Proceedings of R. A. Institution*, vol. xxviii.

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employment there through refusing the oath of abjuration. In 1726, however, having taken the oath, he was appointed to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Aberdeen, and about 1740 was preferred to Long Horsley in Northumberland, where he died on 4th January 1748.

Catharine Trotter, his widow, survived him for only sixteen months. She was born in London on 16th August 1679, and gave early signs of literary genius. While quite young she joined the Roman Catholic Church; or, as her biographer, the Rev. Thomas Birch, puts it, 'she followed the dictates of a misguided conscience and embraced the Romish communion,' in which she continued till 1707. She wrote at first various tragedies and dramatic pieces, which were duly performed on the stage with great success, while later on she devoted herself to pamphlets and books of a religious nature.

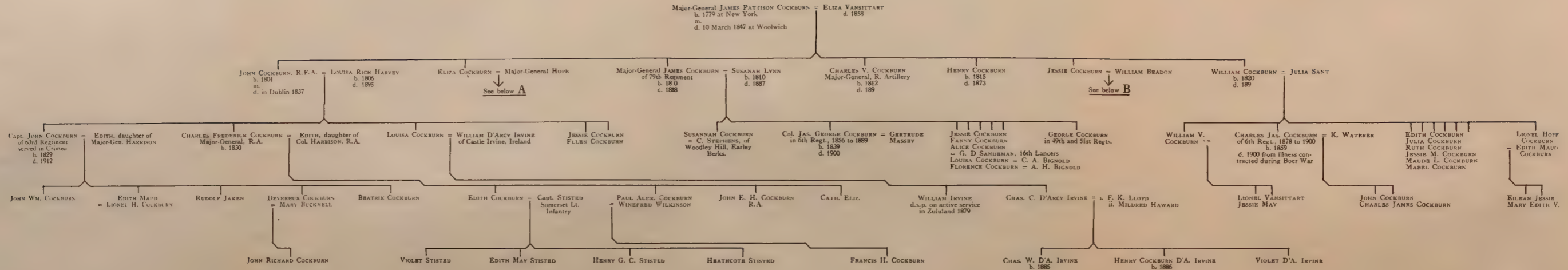
The Rev. Thomas Birch published in 1751 a selection of her works, *Theological, Moral, Dramatic, and Poetic*, together with a portion of her correspondence and an account of her life, in two volumes.

The Rev. Patrick Cockburn and his wife Catharine Trotter had four daughters: Mary, Catharine, Sarah, and Grizel, and an only son, John Cockburn, born in the parish of St. Dunstan's in 1713.

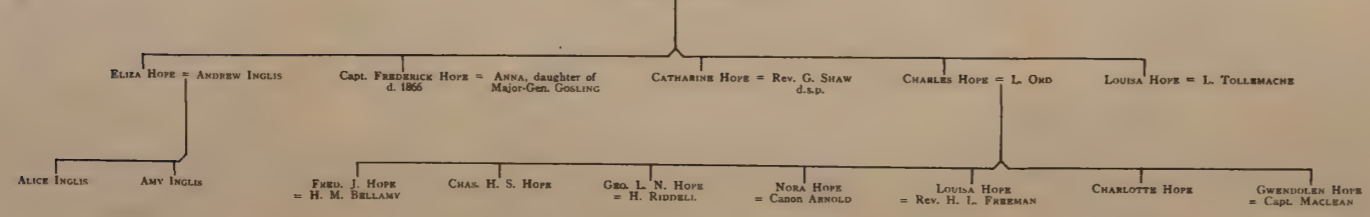
To this JOHN COCKBURN there is, in the second volume of the Rev. Thomas Birch's work mentioned above, a long letter of advice, under three headings: Religion, Employment, and Women—all treated in a motherly and philosophic manner. From this letter it appears that John Cockburn had first of all intended to follow in the steps of his father and grandfather and take holy orders, but latterly his mother says: 'Your present fancy (and I can call it nothing else yet) seems towards the Army,' from which we



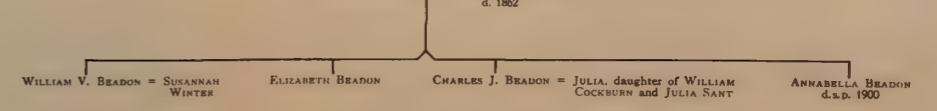
MEMORIAL OF JOHN EDWIN CHERRY



A ELIZA COCKBURN = Major-General HOPE



B JESSIE COCKBURN = WILLIAM FK. BEADON d. 1862



THE KIRKLANDS OF BOLTON

can gather that the letter, which is not dated, was addressed to him while quite a youth.

At any rate he entered the Army, was present at the battle of Dettingen, and served for sixty-seven years in the Ordnance Department, dying at Woolwich in 1803.

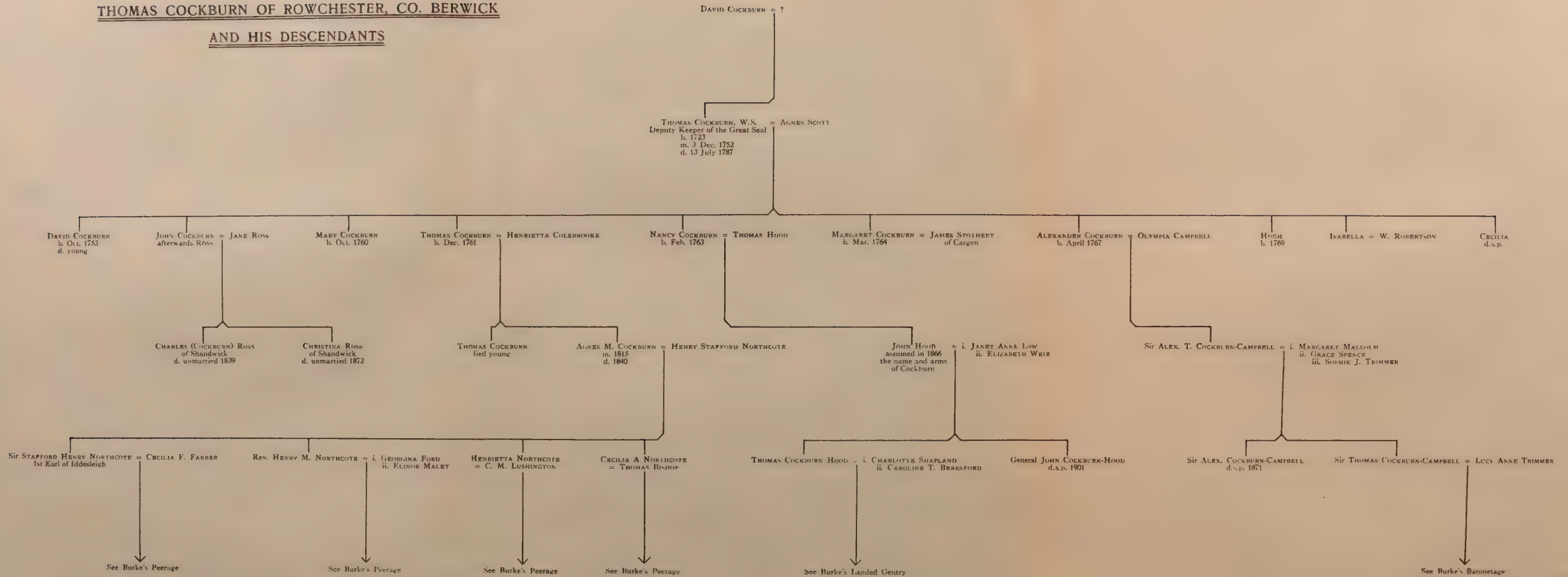
He married Maria Theresa Letti, a Dutch lady apparently, and by her he had six sons and six daughters: James, Jacob, John, George, Charles, and Peter; Elizabeth, Catharine, Mary, Anna, Maria Theresa, and Charlotte.

JOHN COCKBURN, the third son of John Cockburn and Maria Theresa Letti, was an officer in the artillery, and married in 1776 Mary Cockburn, eldest daughter of Colonel Sir James Cockburn of the thirty-fifth regiment, and granddaughter of the late Sir Edward Cockburn. By her he had four daughters and three sons.

The eldest son, JAMES PATTISON COCKBURN, born in 1779, became a major-general in the Royal Artillery, and was present at the siege of Copenhagen in 1807. He was a celebrated amateur artist in water-colours, and a pupil of Paul Sandby, R.A., many of his drawings being still in the possession of his descendants, and some in the British Museum. He was also on the survey of the excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum, of which he made many important drawings, besides publishing a volume of engravings of Swiss scenery.

He married Eliza Vansittart, by whom he had five sons and two daughters, particulars of whom (and their descendants) are shown in the pedigree annexed.

THOMAS COCKBURN OF ROWCHESTER, CO. BERWICK
AND HIS DESCENDANTS



COCKBURNS OF ROWCHESTER

It seems impossible to carry the authentic pedigree* of this family back beyond David Cockburn, 'bailie of Lantoun,' who was apparently living in 1745. His son Thomas Cockburn, who was born in 1723 and died in July 1787,† was a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, was admitted a notary on 17th July 1745,‡ and at the time of his death was 'his Majesty's Ordinary Writer in Scotland' and Deputy-Keeper of the Great Seal.

He married on 3rd December 1752 Agnes, daughter of John Scott of Belford, in the parish of Morebattle,§ a grandson of the first baronet of Ancrum. By her, who died on 1st February 1791,|| he had five sons and five daughters, whose baptisms are mostly in the Edinburgh registers. Of this

* One might have expected Mr. Cockburn Hood to be accurate with regard to his own ancestry, whatever his errors in dealing with other branches of the family. But, far from that, his misstatements are here even more flagrant than elsewhere. He sees fit (*House of Cockburn*, p. 72) to derive himself from James Cockburn, a younger son of Sir James Cockburn of Langton, who died in 1578—who, he asserts, 'was styled of Selburnrig, of which property he got possession from his father subject to his stepmother's life-rent charge thereon.' This statement is substantiated by no reference to any record. Selburnrig was a very small portion of the estate of Langton, and is occasionally mentioned as such (e.g. *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 2331), but no proof is forthcoming that it was ever separated from the main holding and made hereditary in a younger branch of the family.

In a like airy manner Mr. Cockburn Hood polishes off three more generations, evolving them, apparently, from his own imagination; for he supplies no references to records, public or private. If David, father of Thomas the writer, was a man of substance, as we are led to suppose, it is rather curious that he left no will nor any trace of his position in the Cockburn tree.

In many editions of the *Landed Gentry* there appeared a pedigree (doubtless inspired by our optimistic historian) beginning (rather vaguely) 'about the end of the thirteenth century.' It is a long descent, in more senses than one, from this proud ancestry to an eighteenth-century lawyer.

† Mr. Cockburn Hood says that he died in 1796, at the age of seventy-three. But the *Scots Magazine* records the event in the earlier year, 1787, and a tombstone in St. Cuthbert's kirkyard, Edinburgh, gives the year of his birth as 1723, which makes him only sixty-four. So Mr. Cockburn Hood was wrong as to the age as well as the date.

‡ *Reg. of Admission of Notaries*, vol. xxiv.

§ *Edin. Reg. Marr.*

|| *Scots Mag.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

family David, the first-born, and Hugh, the youngest, evidently died young.

John, the eldest surviving son, married in 1786 Jane Ross, who in 1790 succeeded to the estates of Shandwick on the death of her uncle William, who was killed in a duel at Blackheath on 11th May in that year.* John Cockburn thereupon assumed the name of Ross, sold the little property of Rowchester, which his late father had purchased,† and resided at Shandwick, where he died in 1827. By Jane Ross, who survived him two years, there were two children: Charles, who succeeded on his mother's death, but died unmarried in 1839, and Christina, who inherited Shandwick from her brother, but died unmarried in May 1872, when a lengthy law-suit commenced as to the succession, with which we have no concern.‡

Thomas Cockburn, the second surviving son, born 18th December 1761, entered the service of the East India Company, and became a partner in the firm of Cockburn, Harrington, Burnaby & Co., Madras. By his wife Henrietta Colebrooke he had an only son, Thomas, who died young, and a daughter Agnes, who married in November 1815 Henry Stafford Northcote, and became the mother of the first Earl of Iddesleigh. Thomas and his brother Alexander seem to have been on very friendly terms with General Sir William Cockburn of that ilk. Both of them signed the settlement made at his marriage, and Thomas was subsequently factotum to Lady Cockburn.

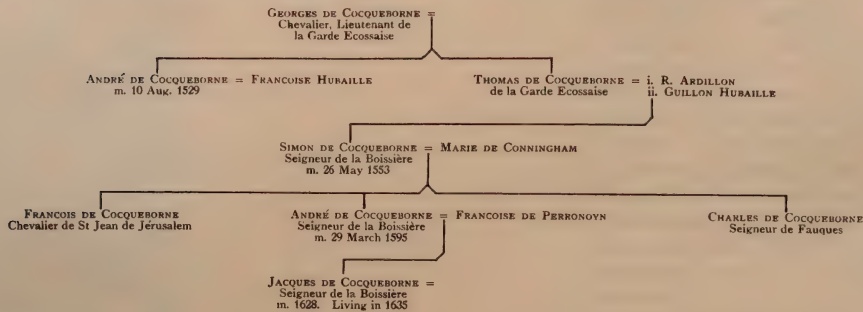
Alexander, the third son, born April 1767, also went to India, and was associated with his elder brother Thomas in the firm of bankers at Madras named above.

* *Scottish Antiquary*, vol. iv. pp. 70, 71.

† *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, Feb. 1771.

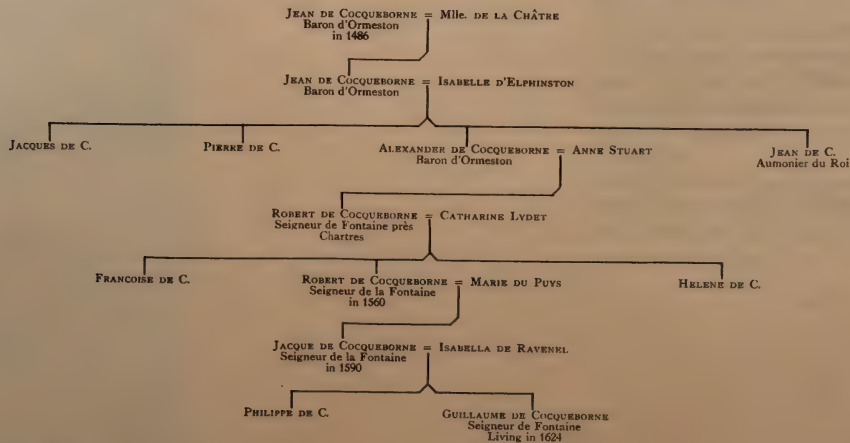
‡ *Ibid.*

COCKBURNS, Seigneurs de la Boissière, established in Berry, 1482.



From MSS. of Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
Cabinet d'Hozier, vol. 104

COCKBURNS, Barons d'Ormeston and Seigneurs de Fontaine, 1485.



From MSS. of Bibliothèque Nationale
Cabinets de Titres, vol. 199

COCKBURNS OF ROWCHESTER

He married Olympia, daughter of General Alexander Campbell of Gartford in Ross-shire, who in 1815 was created a baronet for his distinguished services. Sir Alexander's two sons were both killed in battle, the one at Assaye, the other in the Pyrenees in July 1813; whilst his only daughter, Olympia (Cockburn), was lost at sea in 1809—the East India Company's ship *Glory*, in which she was making the voyage home, foundering in a hurricane off the Cape of Good Hope.

In 1821 General Sir Alexander Campbell obtained a renewed patent extending the limitation of the baronetcy in favour of his grandson Alexander Cockburn, who on succeeding to the title assumed the name of Campbell, and became Sir Alexander T. Cockburn-Campbell, Baronet. His grandson is now the holder of the dignity.

The daughters of Thomas Cockburn, W.S., and Agnes Scott, were Margaret, Isabella, Agnes, Mary, and Cecilia Charlotte. The last two died unmarried in 1833 and 1834 respectively, * whilst Margaret married in August 1788 James Stothert of Cargen in Kirkcudbrightshire, † and Isabella married in 1796 William Robertson, † an advocate, who eventually rose to the Bench.

Agnes, the third daughter, born in February 1763, † married one Thomas Hood, by whom she had two sons: Thomas and John. The elder son died young, whilst John, who was born in July 1795, acquired in later years the property of Stoneridge (now called Stainrig), in the parish of Eccles in Berwickshire.

He married, first, in 1818 Janet Anne Low, who died in 1836, leaving a large family (the eldest son being the author of the *House of Cockburn*), and, secondly, in 1844 Elizabeth Weir.

* Tombstone in St. Cuthbert's.

† *Scots Mag.*

‡ *Edin. Reg. Bapt.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

In 1830 Mr. Hood recorded his arms in the Lyon Office, and again in 1866 he registered arms on assuming the surname of Cockburn, prefixed to that of Hood, 'in consideration of his maternal descent from Thomas Cockburn of Rowchester.*' It is not at all clear why the worthy man should, in his declining years, have decided to augment his arms with those of his maternal grandfather, who had died almost seventy-nine years before, besides assuming the patronymic. Such an assumption usually signifies the inheritance of land or money from the person whose name and arms are taken, but there is no evidence of this having been the case. His mother, Agnes Cockburn, had been in her grave for many years, and she had not been, even heraldically, an heiress. His uncle, Alexander Cockburn, was then represented by his son, Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell, Baronet; and as his elder cousin, Agnes Cockburn, who married Mr. Henry Stafford Northcote, had never seen fit to assume her father's surname, it would appear to have been merely a desire to join what has been called the hyphenated aristocracy.

* Vide *Lyon Office Record*.

COCKBURNS ABROAD

IN these modern days, when facilities for travelling are so great, it is hard to picture to ourselves the difficulties and dangers which our forbears had to undergo during their journeys, either by land or sea, and we are wont to look upon them as wondrously venturesome; but they probably thought little of it at the time. At any rate the Scots have always been adventurous travellers and successful settlers, and those Cockburns who emulated their compatriots have left names for themselves as prosperous immigrants in the lands of their adoption.

Several families descended from the various Scottish branches settled during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in France, a country which has been for ages intimately connected with Scotland; later we find a branch in Germany; a soldier of fortune (who possibly left descendants) in the service of Sweden; some sojourners in Holland; later on various families in the West Indies, especially in Jamaica; besides others in America, and in more recent times in Canada, Natal, and Australia.

IN FRANCE

The earliest Cockburns settled in France were connected with the *Garde Écossaise*, which was founded about the year 1420. These Scots Guards, consisting of archers and lancers, were at the head of the French army in all the great battles, and for nearly three hundred years the kings of France were guarded by them. From 1465 till about 1640 the lists* collected by Mr. Forbes Leith show that Cockburns were almost invariably connected with the regiment. The different spellings of the name are very curious, and show conclusively that the name was pronounced, as now, Coburn. Some of the variations are Coquebourne, Colburn, Cokabrun, Kaburn, Quoakeburn, Coybourne, and from 1585

* W. Forbes Leith, *Scottish Men-at-Arms in France*.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

onwards constantly Cobron or Cobrun, exactly as it would be pronounced nowadays by the lower classes in Scotland.

The first family of note was one founded by a Georges de Coqueborne, lieutenant of the *Garde Écossaise*, who is mentioned in the roll of the guard as early as 1465. They became Seigneurs de la Boissière, in the parish of Tauxigny in Berry, and, as shown in annexed pedigree, four more generations bring them down to the year 1628. From which Scottish branch they sprang it is impossible to say, nor do we know if the family continued in the male line beyond 1628.

The next family was founded about 1485 by a Jean de Coqueborne, described as lieutenant 'de la compagnie des gens d'Armes du S^r. d'Aubigny.'

His grandson Alexander became Baron d'Orleston, which points to the probability that they were descended from the Cockburns of Ormiston in Scotland. Succeeding generations were Seigneurs de Fontaine près Chartres until 1624, when Guillaume de Coqueborne is so described.

About 1530 another Jean de Coqueborne, of the *Garde Écossaise*, married Guillemette Bastard, heiress of her father, the Vicomte de Fussy, and their various heirs became successive Vicomtes de Fussy for about a hundred and seventy years, as shown in the accompanying pedigree. Fussy is situated about eight kilometres from Bourges, and according to a manuscript note in vol. ccix. of the *Dossiers Bleus, Cabinet de Titres*, there was in 1718 a stained-glass window at Fussy in the Chapel des Seigneurs de Fussy, bearing the arms of Cockburn impaled with those of Fouchier, no doubt the coat of arms borne by Matthieu de Cocqueborne, who in 1554 married Gilberte de Fouchier.

In the same volume of the *Dossiers Bleus* are some precise manuscript notes written by a grandson of René de

COCKBURNS ABROAD

Cocqueborne, himself a grandson of Matthieu mentioned above:—

‘Réné de Cocqueborne mon grandpère est né le 13 Oct: 1612, et il est mort le Samedi 13 Decembre, 1692. Il a été transporté de Bourges où il mourût, à Fussy où il a été enterré dans notre Chapelle.

‘Gaspard de Cocqueborne est né le 18 Septembre, 1646, et il est mort à Fussy le Samedi, 11 Juin, 1707; il a été enterré dans notre Chapelle de la Sainte Vierge.

‘Claude de Cocqueborne est né le 18 Septembre, 1689. Réné est né le 3 Mai, 1693.

‘Nota: Il est à remarquer que Claude de Cocqueborne, mon frère, est né le même jour et la même heure, le même mois que Gaspard de Cocqueborne, mon père. Cette remarque a été faite par feu mon grand-père qui l’avait écrit comme une chose particulière.’

‘Extrait de l’Épitaphe écrit sur la Tombe de Réné de Cocqueborne, mon grandpère:—

“Ci-git Messire Réné de Coqueborne, Chevalier, Vicomte de Fussy, gentilhomme ordinaire de feu M. le Duc d’Orleans, décédé à Bourges le 13 Dec. 1692, âgé de 81 ans, qui a ordonné de sa sepulture en cette Chapelle où reposent les corps de ses prédécésseurs. Priez Dieu pour le repos de leurs âmes.”’

The next family, fourth in seniority of those who settled in France, was founded about 1570 by Adam Cockburn, who is said to have been grandson of Christopher Cockburn of Choicelee in Berwickshire. He became Baron de Ville-neuve-au-Chemin, a title borne for many years by his descendants, who were also Seigneurs de Courtenay and Vollerons. These lordships were all in Champagne, which must not be confounded with the comparatively small district where the wine of that name is now grown. Previous to the Revolution of 1789 Champagne was one of the largest provinces of France, and is now comprised, roughly speaking,

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

in the departments of Yonne, Aube, Marne, and Ardennes—Villeneuve being situated near Troyes in Aube.

As shown in the pedigree of this family, the main line continued for at any rate some two hundred and fifty years, and the heads of the family were almost invariably connected with the army of France.

As another proof that the family in France in those days knew that their name should be pronounced *Coburn*, we frequently find the head of the family, from 1623 onwards, described as Cocqueborne—Cobron.

One interesting member of the family was Jean Baptiste Charles de Cocqueborne, Baron de Villeneuve, who was born on 21st July 1751. In his sixteenth year he was appointed page in the household of Madame la Dauphine (the mother of Louis xv.), who, however, died a few months later, in 1767. He was then transferred to a similar position in the household of the Queen, Marie Charlotte, daughter of Stanislas, King of Poland. In 1770 he became lieutenant in the 'Regiment du Roi-Cavalerie,' and had the Order of St. Louis bestowed on him.

It may be mentioned that before being given the post as page in the household of Madame la Dauphine he had to obtain a *Certificat de Noblesse*, which was granted in 1767 by Louis Pierre d'Hozier, the Chief Herald of France.

The family is said to have been ruined by the Revolution which commenced in 1789; but it may be mentioned that in 1904 and 1905 a Baron de Cockburn was living in Paris at 82 l'Avenue Parmentier, a descendant probably of this family, and it seems likely that other branches were established which we have not been able to trace.

Still another family, Seigneurs de Cadras, was descended for several generations from the same stock, Barons de Villeneuve; and lastly, a branch descended from a Guillaume Timothée de Cockborne, second son of the Baron de Ville-

COCKBURNS ABROAD

neuve, born in 1727, established himself in the Isle of Dominique, married in 1763, and left at any rate one son.

IN GERMANY

From *The Scots in Germany** we have notices of one family in Danzig, and traces of two others. The latter are merely indicated by the names J. Kaubrun (Cockburn) and Reinhold Kaubrun in a list of Scotsmen resident in Prussia in 1615.

The other notice is more interesting, as the family is traced for some hundred and fifty years. Who their progenitors in Scotland were it is impossible to say, but the founder of the family migrated to Danzig during the first half of the seventeenth century.

As in the case of his namesakes in France, the name became corrupted phonetically into Kabrun. As a merchant he acquired a small landed property, and eventually great wealth as a sugar refiner. His son James, born in January 1759, became one of the most philanthropic citizens Danzig ever possessed. In 1775 the father's business got into difficulties owing to a partner's mismanagement, and he, James Kabrun, went into business with an uncle, who died in 1800. He suffered greatly from the wars of Napoleon, and eventually died in 1814 from paralysis; and his two sons dying without male issue, these German Cockburns became extinct. By his will James left his library, pictures, and prints, of which he had been an ardent collector, to his native city.

IN SWEDEN

Among the numerous cadets of Scottish families† who took service in Sweden was a Samuel Cockburn, who entered the Swedish army in 1598, and took part, as colonel, in the

* Th. A. Fischer, 1902.

† O. Donner, *Scottish Families in Sweden and Finland* (Helsingfors, 1884).

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Polish war. He seems to have been one of the family of Cockburns of Glen, cadets of Cockburns of Henderland (see p. 111), and played a prominent part in the history of his land of adoption.

He was present at the taking of Novgorod in 1611, and afterwards is said to have built a fort at Düna, which was called, after him, Fort Cobron. To this day there is a town called Kobryn not very far off; and it would be interesting to know whether this place, somewhat notorious a few years ago for riots and massacres, had originally any connection with him. In 1621 he died at Åbo in Finland, and was buried in the cathedral, where his brother John Cockburn caused a marble tomb to be erected to his memory in a side chapel to the left of the doorway on entering, enclosed by iron gates. The writer, on visiting the cathedral in 1896, and anxious to be admitted inside the gates of this side chapel, caused quite a commotion on handing his card (being unable to speak the Finnish language) to the janitor, who had, of course, known of the deceased Samuel Cockburn, but never expected to see a member of the family in the flesh!

Whether Colonel Samuel Cockburn married and left descendants or not we cannot say. For his services he obtained in 1612 extensive lands in Österbotten in Sweden.

IN HOLLAND

In former days there was much connection between Scotland and Holland, and it is not surprising that Cockburns were found there, though they were usually sojourners rather than permanent settlers.

As shown in the family of the Kirklands of Bolton, John Cockburn, D.D., the famous rector of Northolt, was resident from 1698 to 1709 in Amsterdam, where he founded the English church.

COCKBURNS ABROAD

Soon after this the heads of the Cockburns of Ryslaw (see p. 159) were residing in Holland for two generations. Sir James Cockburn, fourth baronet of Ryslaw, a colonel in the service of the States-General, married Catharine van Offle, daughter of a gentleman in Friesland, and died at The Hague in 1720. His son Sir William was a colonel in the Dutch Guards, married a lady from Utrecht, and died in 1782. The actual records in Holland are missing, but these particulars are taken from a manuscript pedigree drawn up by Sir W. Betham, Ulster King-of-Arms, some thirty years after Sir William's death.

IN THE WEST INDIES

We now go further afield to Jamaica and other of the West Indian islands, where numerous members of the family are to be found in the records.

In these days of mighty ocean steamships, when one even now hesitates over a voyage, when the consultation of steam time-tables and the taking of the necessary ticket seem troublesome, when the journey to the port of departure, probably in a special boat train, the getting on board, the arrangement of one's cabin, the dread of the sea, and numerous little inconveniences, are brought to one's mind, one must almost shudder to think of the hardships undergone by our forbears when they started on a sea voyage, protracted perhaps for months by adverse winds and storms. None of these discomforts, however, seem to have deterred them, and they came and went, apparently without much heed.

In Jamaica, one of our earliest colonies, dating from 1670, we first find traces of Cockburns. Dr. James Cockburn, a son of Sir Archibald Cockburn, second baronet of Langton, was the earliest settler of the family, arriving in Jamaica at the dawn of the eighteenth century. From the annexed pedigree it will be seen that his days, and those of his descendants, were long in the land, at any rate of their adop-

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

tion. The late Mr. J. J. Foster in his *Baronetage* (1882) denied that Dr. James was a son of Sir Archibald Cockburn of Langton; but three proofs were evidently overlooked. First, in the Guild Rolls of Edinburgh James, lawful son to Sir Archibald Cockburn of Langton, was bound apprentice on 7th February 1690 to John Jossie, apothecary. Secondly, in his will, dated 1711, appointing Sir Alexander Cockburn one of his executors, he calls him his brother; and Sir Alexander, in giving power of attorney to his co-executor in June 1718, names Dr. James as his 'brother German.'

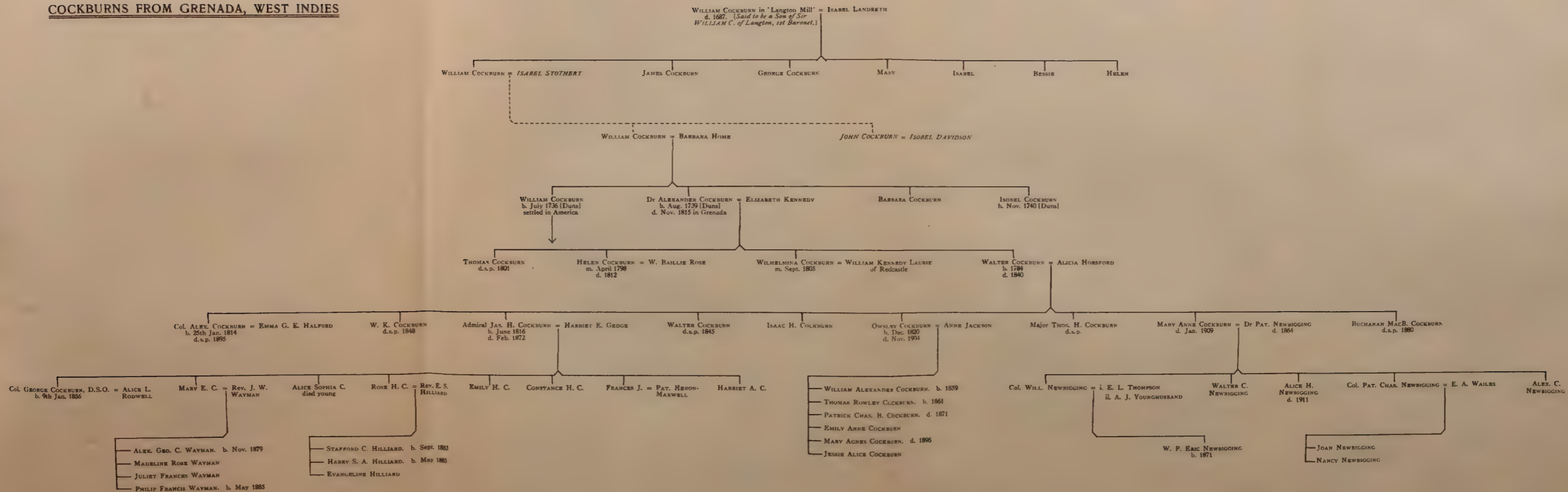
Beyond the fact that they became large landowners in Jamaica, there is nothing worthy of much note about them, except that one grandson of Dr. James Cockburn travelled further afield and settled in Virginia. (See under *Cockburns in America*.)

Had not the male line become extinct some eighty years ago, the head of the family would have succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of Sir Alexander Cockburn, Lord Chief Justice of England, in 1880.

Another branch, which may possibly have been descended from the Kirklands of Bolton family (see p. 235), was established in Jamaica for many years, and, as shown in the pedigree, representatives are now living, in the persons of Mr. W. H. Cockburn of Brighton, and Mrs. McCullagh, daughter of the late Dr. James Balfour Cockburn of Guernsey, although these two gentlemen were totally unaware of each other's existence until the writer made the discovery that they were relatives.

Besides these there were several other Cockburns in Jamaica, whom we are unable to identify, including a Mrs. Elizabeth Cockburn or Wilson and her son Lestock Cockburn. Latterly, and for several generations, Lestock Cockburn took his mother's name, Wilson, till about 1876 the family reverted to the old name. Some of the present

COCKBURNS FROM GRENADA, WEST INDIES



COCKBURNS ABROAD

descendants are now living in Hamilton, Ontario. (*Vide* pedigree, p. 262.)

We now turn south to Grenada, where an important family was settled for a considerable number of years. The present generation has been brought up in the belief (which may possibly be perfectly correct) that they are descended from a son of the first baronet of Langton, but it is difficult to prove it. According to a manuscript pedigree, their ancestor, William Cockburn (died 1687), was a son of Sir William Cockburn of Langton, and married Isobel Landreth, who died in 1717. But the proof that Sir William ever had a son William is wanted. A William Cockburn certainly died in 1687, and Isobel Landreth was his wife. In his will he is simply described as 'in Langton Mill,' and there is no suggestion in it that he was closely related to the Langton family; and beyond a statement that there was due to him £200 by Sir Archibald Cockburn, there is no other mention of the Langtons.

He had three sons: William, James, and George, and four daughters.*

William, the eldest son (according to this MS. pedigree), married one Isobel Stothert, by whom he had two sons: William and John. The elder son William married Barbara Home, and from the time of this marriage the pedigree of this branch is easily traced.

WILLIAM and Barbara had two sons: William, who eventually settled in America, and ALEXANDER, who was baptised at Duns in August 1739. In the course of time he became a doctor, and emigrated, like several of his kinsmen, to the West Indies, settling down at Grenada, where he died in November 1815. By his will he left certain of his slaves—'that is to say, John, Louis, Lucy, Antoine, Billy, Baptiste,

* *Lauder Tests.*

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Canga, Harry, John Cox, Saline, Jack, Anne, Lizette and Billy'—to Delia, a lady friend of colour.* In the Parish Church of St. George there is a memorial to him:—

To the Memory of
the late Alexander Cockburn Esq M D
who in the fulness of years and in the
reflection of a life well spent
departed from this for a better world
8 Nov: 1815 aged 76.

Dr. Alexander Cockburn married† Elizabeth Kennedy, daughter of one Thomas Kennedy of Maybole, Ayrshire, and Helen Ross, his wife. She predeceased him, leaving two sons: Thomas Alexander, who died unmarried in 1801; Walter, of whom presently; and two daughters: Helen and Wilhelmina. The former married in April 1798 William Baillie Rose, but died in 1812, and the younger married in September 1805 William Kennedy Laurie of Redcastle.

That the elder daughter was a reigning beauty in Edinburgh prior to her marriage (possibly afterwards too) is shown by the minutes of an old social club, the Wagering Club, which still enjoys a healthy life in Edinburgh. The club met (and still meets and dines) but once a year, and wagers for small amounts are made as to certain eventualities taking place during the coming twelve months. In old days it was not unusual for the members to bet on the probability of well-known members of the fair sex becoming married before their next meeting. For instance, in 1791 a wager was laid 'that Miss Scott of Balcomie shall be married before

* Such bequests were common in the West Indies before the abolition. Thus Dr. Thomas Cockburn of Jamaica, whose will is dated 1768, left to his wife 'Thomas, Cæsar, Amos, Thompson and Virginia Nanny to be disposed of as she shall think proper.' To his second son Martin, who had left Jamaica and settled in Virginia, he gave the six negroes he had sent him from home, 'Charles, Rachel, Venus, Hannah, Hagar and Leah.'

† *Reg. Deeds*, Dublin, vol. cccix. p. 225.

COCKBURNS ABROAD

next meeting.' She was not; but in 1795 she married Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, and became Duchess of Portland in due course. Again, for a couple of years, from 1818, they staked their shillings on Miss Dewar, elder of Vogrie, a great beauty, becoming married, an event which took place in 1820 on her becoming Mrs. Anderson. In the same way there is an entry in the club minute-book under date 26th January 1793 'that Miss Cockburn from Grenada shall be married before next meeting.' Five years elapsed, however, before she entered the 'holy estate,' when in April 1798 she married William Baillie Rose of Rhinie in Ross-shire. She died at Rhinie fourteen years later.

WALTER COCKBURN, the only surviving son, succeeded his father in estates and sugar plantations which he had acquired in Grenada. When the emancipation of slaves took place he sold his property and invested in a business to help exports from the island, but he was practically ruined by the English Government allowing imports from foreign islands to be brought in—from slave labour.

At some time between June 1816 and November 1817 Walter Cockburn returned to the land of his forbears, and settled down in Edinburgh, where he died in July 1840, aged fifty-six.

By his wife Alicia Horsford he had a large family, as shown in the pedigree chart.

His eldest son, Colonel Alexander Cockburn, married, but died without issue in 1895; but his third son, Admiral James H. Cockburn, married Miss Harriet E. Gedge, and is now represented by a large number of descendants.

ADMIRAL COCKBURN joined the Royal Navy in 1829, and served in H.M.S. *Winchester* under his kinsman, Admiral Sir

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

George Cockburn.* He served in Syria (receiving a medal) and at the siege of St. Jean d'Acree; later in H.M.S. *Hastings* in the East Indies till promoted captain, when he commanded H.M.S. *Cossack* in the Baltic. From 1862 to 1866 he was commodore at the Cape of Good Hope, and in 1870 was appointed Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies, where he died at Government House, Calcutta, on 10th February 1872.

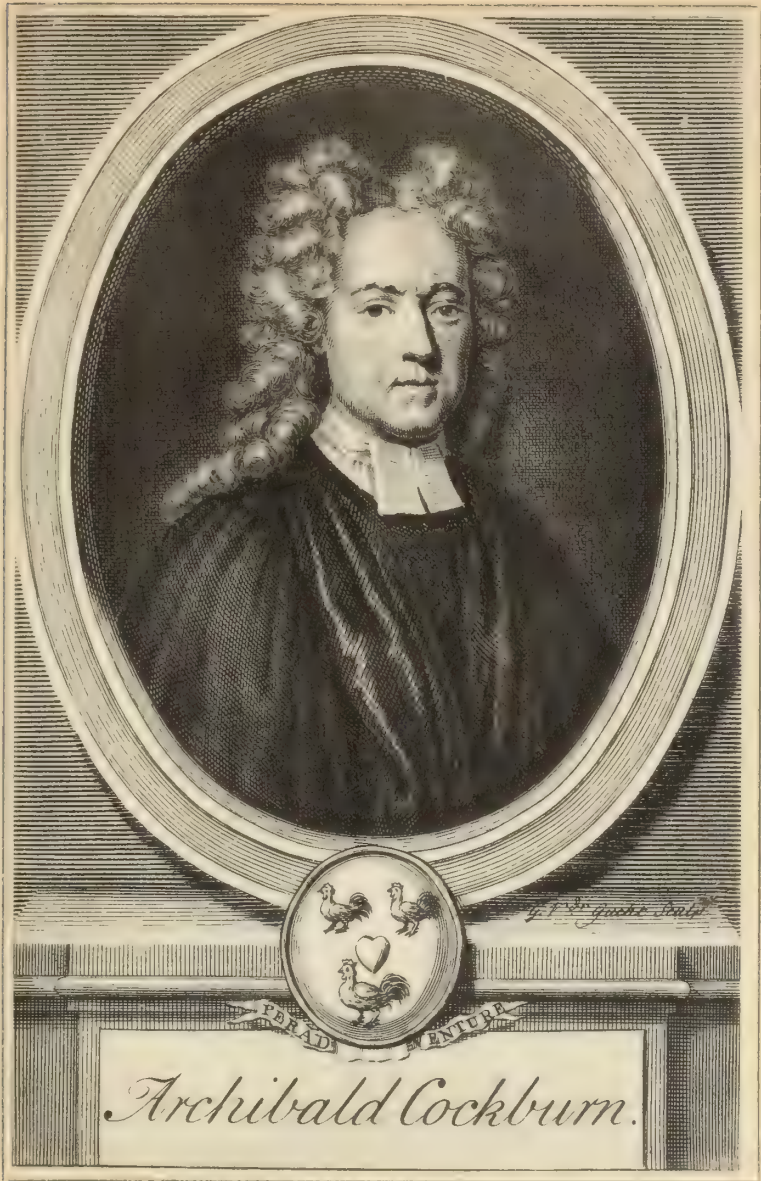
His only son, now COLONEL GEORGE COCKBURN, joined the Rifle Brigade in 1876. He has served in India and in the Soudan (where he was decorated with the D.S.O.); in Crete, 1898-9; and in the Transvaal, 1899-1901. In 1904 he became colonel of his regiment, and retired the following year.

As will be seen from the pedigree, Dr. Alexander Cockburn had an elder brother William, who settled in America, some of whose descendants are still living.

In St. Christopher, commonly called St. Kitts, another West Indian island, about 1722 rather a mysterious member of the family was living—mysterious because nothing much is known of him, though he must have been rather eminent in his day, as he was included in Grainger's *Biographical England*. This was the Rev. Archibald Cockburn, M.A.; and his biographer notes that he published an essay on the *Intermediate State of Blessed Souls*, which sounds somewhat dull, but which Mr. Grainger seems to have considered important.

The records of the island, such as exist, afford no clue as to his identity nor to his life and time of death, but he was a rector there till 1737, when all trace of him is lost. His portrait was engraved by Vandergucht, and bears under-

* See Langton family.



SCULPT. PER ADVENTURA

COCKBURNS ABROAD

neath a coat of arms and motto, the shield having a heart between three cocks, and the motto being 'Accendit Cantu.' The heart suggests a descent from the Cockburns of Ryslaw, but no arms with this motto are on record.

For some reason he has been considered worthy of a place in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, although many Cockburns, certainly more eminent in their day, are not included.

IN AMERICA

As already mentioned, a grandson of Dr. James Cockburn of Jamaica settled in Virginia. His reasons for doing so were romantic. When only eighteen, Martin Cockburn, who was born in Jamaica in August 1742, was travelling with his father in America. There he met Miss Ann Bronaugh, the daughter of Jeremiah Bronaugh of Virginia,* fell in love with her, and wanted to marry forthwith. To this Dr. Cockburn objected, on the score of the youthfulness of the lovers. He did not oppose the engagement, but insisted that the marriage should wait until Martin was twenty-one. When the three years were passed the faithful Martin returned to America to claim his bride.† And in America he remained, for Miss Bronaugh refused to be transplanted to Jamaica. So he bought a residence and lands in Virginia, where he and his wife lived to a very advanced age, respected by all for their amiable character and good sense.‡ In 1769 Martin Cockburn was described as 'of Springfield in the parish of Truro in Fairfax County in the province of Virginia'; and as late as 1859 his name was still visible on the door of his pew in Powick Church, though the door of his friend George Washington's pew had disappeared, possibly as the result of some admirer's greed.‡

* Hayden, *Virginia Genealogies*.

† He had evidently endured the delay with impatience, for he was in Virginia when his father made his will in June 1763, though not due until August.

‡ *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia*.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Another American family was founded by William Cockburn, elder brother of Dr. Alexander Cockburn of Grenada, before mentioned, who settled in Kingston, Ulster County, State of New York, at an early age, and died there in April 1810, leaving three sons and two daughters.

As shown in the accompanying pedigree, there have been numerous descendants, some of whom are still living.

In addition to these two families, search in the old records has brought to light numerous Coburns, who seem to have forestalled the 'Simplified Spelling Society' in the improvement of spelling, and to have decided to be known phonetically, but who they were it is impossible to say.

IN CANADA

Of the two families to be remarked on in Canada, one has already been noted among the Cockburns in Jamaica, whence Dr. Lestock W. Cockburn of Hamilton, Ontario, came.

The other is distinguished by one of its offspring, Major H. Z. C. Cockburn, being the only member of the family to gain the high distinction of the Victoria Cross, which was conferred on him for his conduct in the late Boer War. In addition to this he had previously, in 1898, been awarded the Royal Humane Society's medal for saving two drowning men in Lake Rosseau, Muskoka, Canada. The action which merited the Victoria Cross was for conspicuous bravery on 7th November 1900 at Koomatipoort, when he and Lieutenant R. E. W. Turner with Sergeant E. Holland (both of whom had the Victoria Cross conferred on them) held off the Boers at a critical moment to allow the guns to get away. All three were in the Royal Canadian Dragoons, and Major (or Lieutenant, as he was then) Cockburn was wounded. The presentation of the Victoria Cross was made personally by King George v., when as Prince of Wales, on 11th October 1901

COCKBURNS IN AMERICA (Kingston, Ulster Co., State of New York)

WILLIAM COCKBURN = BARBARA HOME

WILLIAM COCKBURN = CATHARINE TREMPER
b. at Duns, July 1736
Settled in America
d. April 1810

Dr. ALEXANDER COCKBURN = E. KENNEDY
b. Aug. 1739. Settled in
Grenada. (See page 258.)

WILLIAM COCKBURN = MARGARET
d. Feb. 1806

ALEXANDER COCKBURN
b. Sept. 1773
d.s.p. 1837

CATHERINE COCKBURN = NICHOLAS DE MEYER
of Ulster Co., New York

JAMES COCKBURN = ELIZABETH KERSTED

WILLIAM COCKBURN = ANNE GARDENER
b. 1798. d. 1838

JOHN COCKBURN = ANN BROADHEAD

JAMES C.
d.s.p.
1828

ROBERT C.
d.s.p.
1830

LUKE KERSTED COCKBURN = MARIA SHAW

WILLIAM COCKBURN = ANN COCKBURN
nee BROADHEAD

EDWIN C.
d.s.p.

WALTER A. C.

HOWARD COCKBURN
= JANET HOWE
d.s.p.

JAMES C.
d.s.p.

MARGARET C.
= JOHN HESS
s.p.

ANNETTE COCKBURN
d.s.p. 1888

WALTER ALEX. COCKBURN = F. SCOVILLE

WILLIAM S. COCKBURN = — BIRDESLY

CORDELIA E. C.

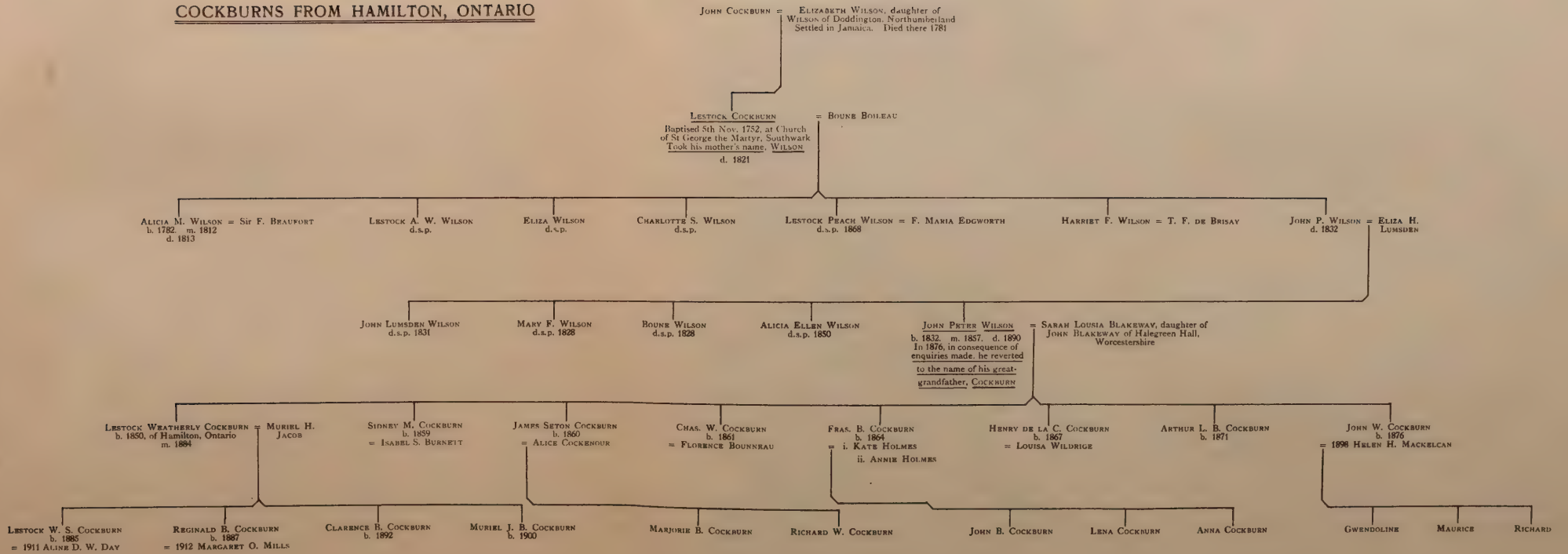
LOUISA C. = A. C. DAVIS

TOBIAS C.
b. 1852

WILLIAM C.
b. 1854

WILLIAM C. DAVIS = M. L. EVERTT

COCKBURNS FROM HAMILTON, ONTARIO



COCKBURNS ABROAD

at Toronto, he also handed to Major Cockburn a sword of honour from the city of Toronto in recognition of his distinguished services.

Of the origin of this family there is little known. They were settled in Edinburgh during at any rate the latter half of the eighteenth century, their ancestors then being jewelers; and there is a tradition in the family that they are descended from the Cockburns of Ormiston, but this is lacking in proof.

A pedigree is annexed showing as much as is known of the family.

IN SOUTH AFRICA

The only family of which we know established in South Africa is one in Natal, mentioned among the Cockburns once of Cockpen and Harperdean. (See p. 223.)

John Montague Cockburn, youngest son of Robert Cockburn and Mary Duff, left Scotland about 1840 to seek his fortune in Natal, where he married, and left, on his death in 1890, four sons and three daughters. He is now represented by a large number of descendants; and it is interesting to know that many of them took part in the late Boer War—no less than two sons, four grandsons, and one son-in-law doing their share nobly in defence of Great Britain's welfare and prosperity. With the exception of one grandson, all served in the Natal Carbineers, and were in the memorable defence of Ladysmith. The son-in-law mentioned above, Mr. Peter Comrie, was mortally wounded when, with Colonel Evan's Composite Regiment, taking a convoy towards Zululand.

IN AUSTRALIA

Various members of the family have at different times been attracted to Australia, but we are only able to trace the origin of two of them: the family of Dr. the Honour-

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

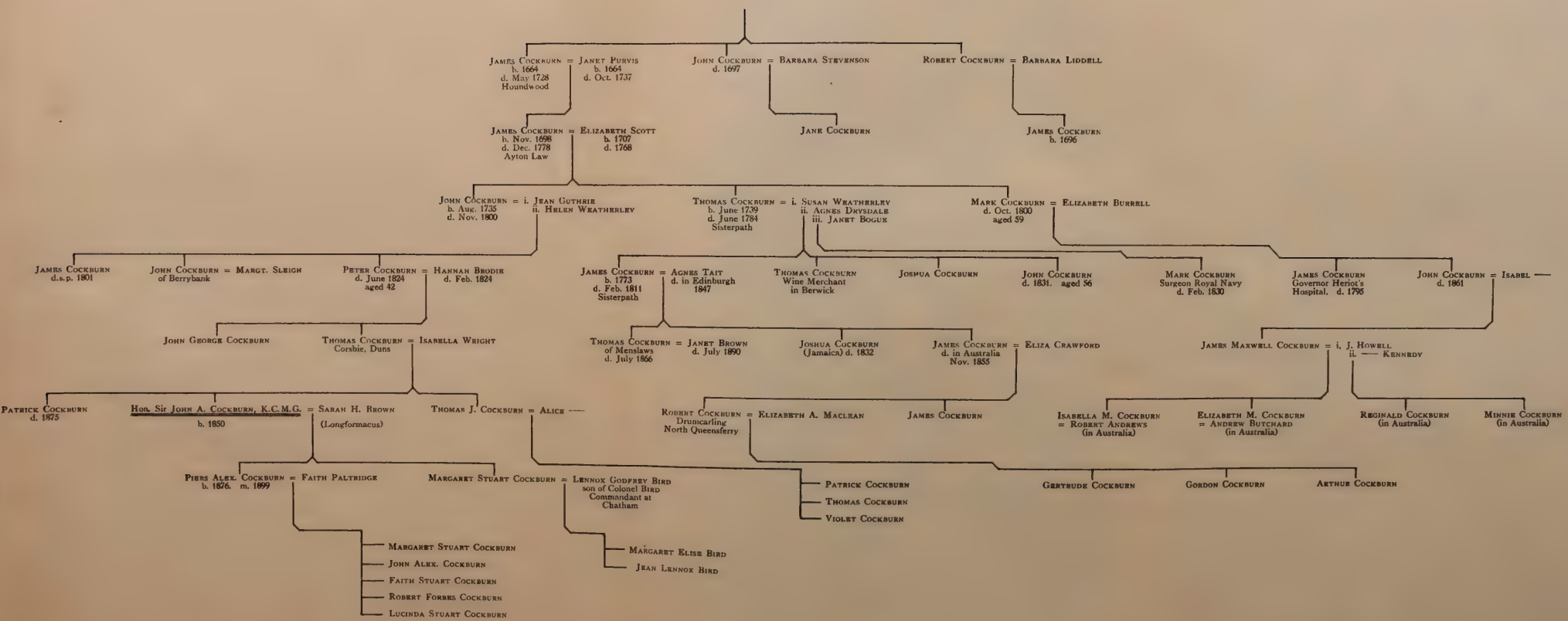
able Sir John A. Cockburn, K.C.M.G., late Agent-General for South Australia, and that of Lawrence Cockburn, one of the younger sons of Lord Cockburn, who settled in Australia some fifty years ago, married, and dying in September 1871, left descendants, as shown in circle pedigree.

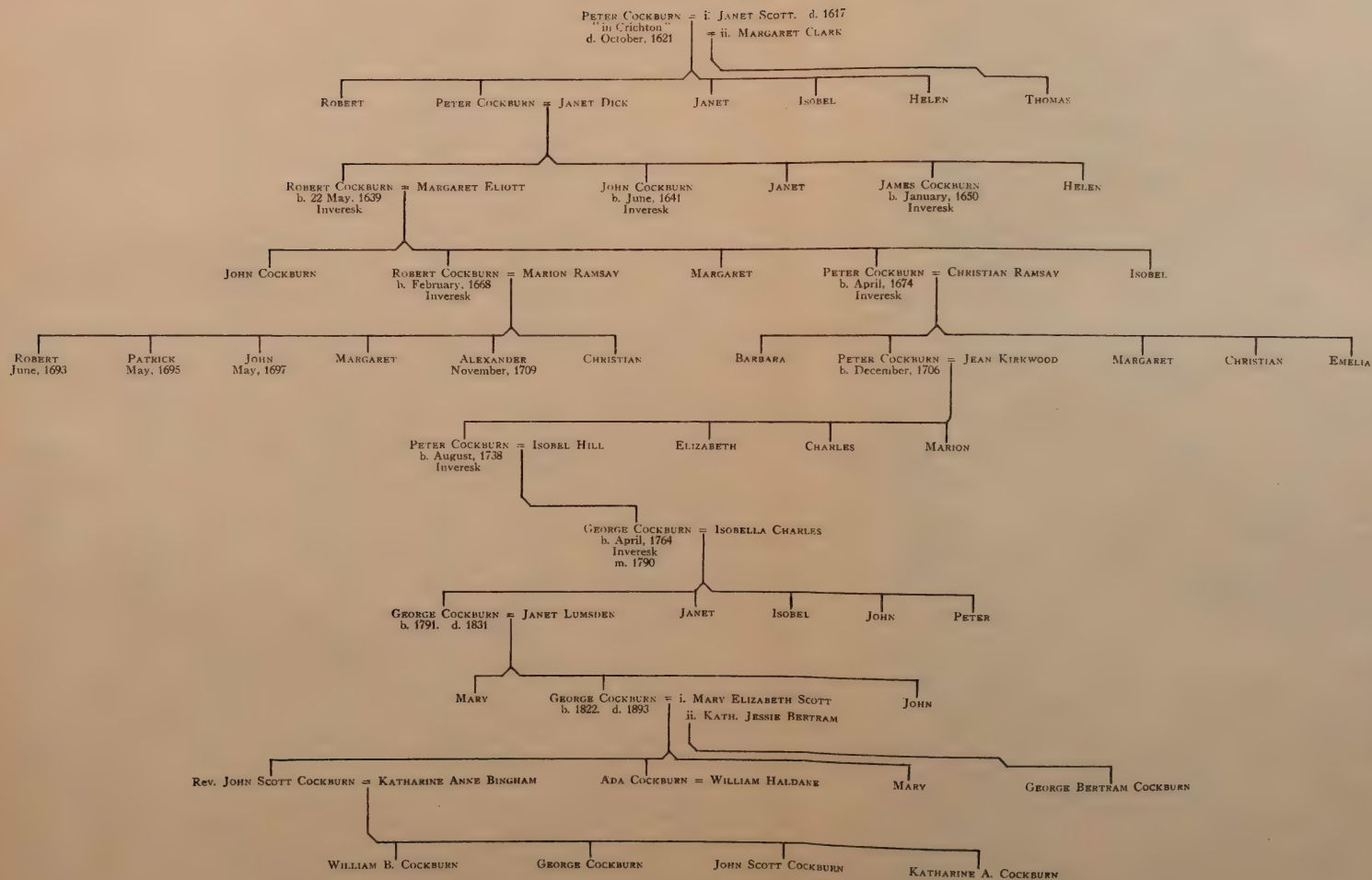
Various individuals bearing the name have been heard of here and there, but it is difficult to identify their origin.

The pedigree of Sir Alexander Cockburn-Campbell, Baronet (a Cockburn family with a Campbell baronetcy, inherited through a female line), is shown separately; but reference must now be made to the forbears of Sir John A. Cockburn, K.C.M.G.

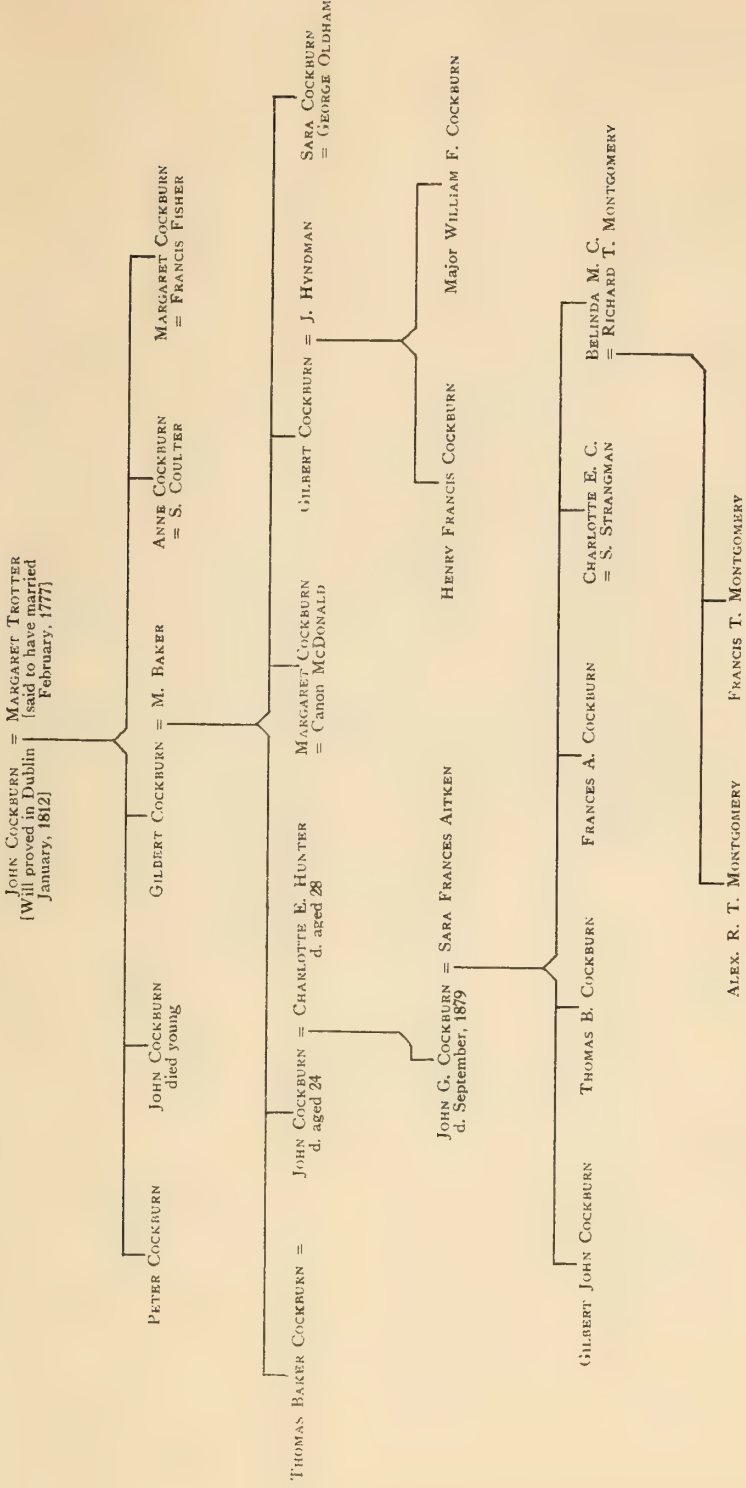
The head of this large branch of Cockburns, who for centuries lived in the neighbourhood of Reston and Ayton, is Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., who, though born in Berwickshire, lived for twenty-three years in South Australia, when he became Prime Minister at the age of thirty-eight. His family Bible and burial ground at Ayton date back to James Cockburn, who came from Houndwood to Ayton Law, and died in 1728 at the age of sixty-four. Sir John's ancestors and their relatives used the crest of a crowing cock and the motto 'Accendit Cantu.' There is an interesting tradition in his family of one of his ancestors, who with horses and men cleared the road to make way for the King of Scotland, who with his suite was snowbound at Cockburnspath, and who received knighthood on the spot for this service.

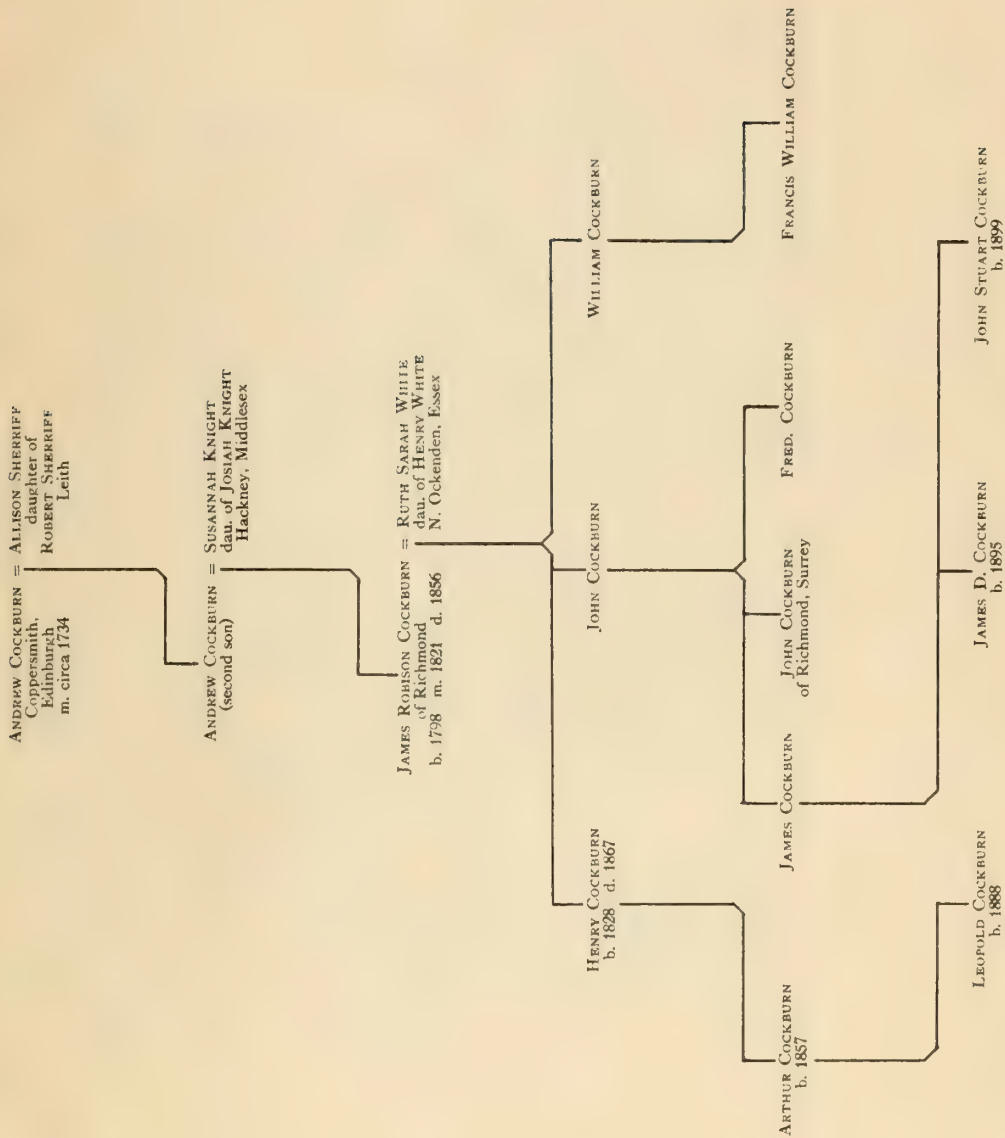
Sir John Cockburn, the present representative in the senior male line, was born at Corsbie, near Duns, in 1850. He took his degree as Doctor of Medicine in the University of London (Gold Medal) in 1874, and went the following year to South Australia, where he settled down. In 1899 he was appointed Agent-General (in London) for his adopted colony, and during his term of office he was honoured with a knighthood, in 1900. His pedigree is annexed.





COCKBURNS IN IRELAND





SOME UNIDENTIFIED BRANCHES

IN addition to the better known families owning landed properties at different times, there are a number of others whom it seems impossible to connect with main stems, but whose branches are of such length that they must not be omitted from this history.

One of the earliest of these is a family which owes its origin to a Peter Cockburn who lived in the parish of Crichton (Midlothian) and died in 1621. His second son moved to Inveresk, where for some two hundred years the family is easily traced from registers of marriage, baptism, etc.

During all this time the members of the family seem to have followed comparatively humble occupations, but the senior representative is now the Rev. John Scott Cockburn, late of Harrogate*; and his half-brother, Mr. George Bertram Cockburn, was one of the pioneers of aviation, a hobby from which it is understood he has now severed an active connection, though still retaining an interest in the science.

There is a tradition in this branch that they were descended from the Ormiston family, and it may be founded on fact, but actual proof is wanting.

Still another family which is unfortunately detached from any main stem is that represented nowadays by Mr. John Cockburn, the well-known silversmith and jeweller of Richmond, Surrey. From the accompanying chart pedigree, furnished from a family Bible, it will be seen that the first proved ancestor was an Andrew Cockburn, who married about 1734. Whose son he was, and when he was born, it would be difficult to say.

The records of Ireland in old days furnish proof that there existed in the Emerald Isle several Cockburn families, whose obscurity (excepting the branch of the Cockburns of that

* Since this was written Mr. Cockburn died at Heswall, Cheshire, in June 1912.

THE COCKBURN FAMILY RECORDS

Ilk and another dealt with in the Cockpen section) is very disappointing.

One family extant to the present day should, however, be noticed. About a hundred years ago there died in Dublin a John Cockburn, who in his will (wherein he is described as 'of Mark Street'), proved January 1812, naturally mentions his children, and with the assistance of one of his great-great-grandchildren it is possible to place on record a chart pedigree of that branch of the family.

About the same date as the commencement of the preceding pedigree still another Andrew Cockburn, hailing from the parish of Temple, Midlothian, founded a family, represented now by (amongst others) Mr. Malcom Cockburn of Falkirk.

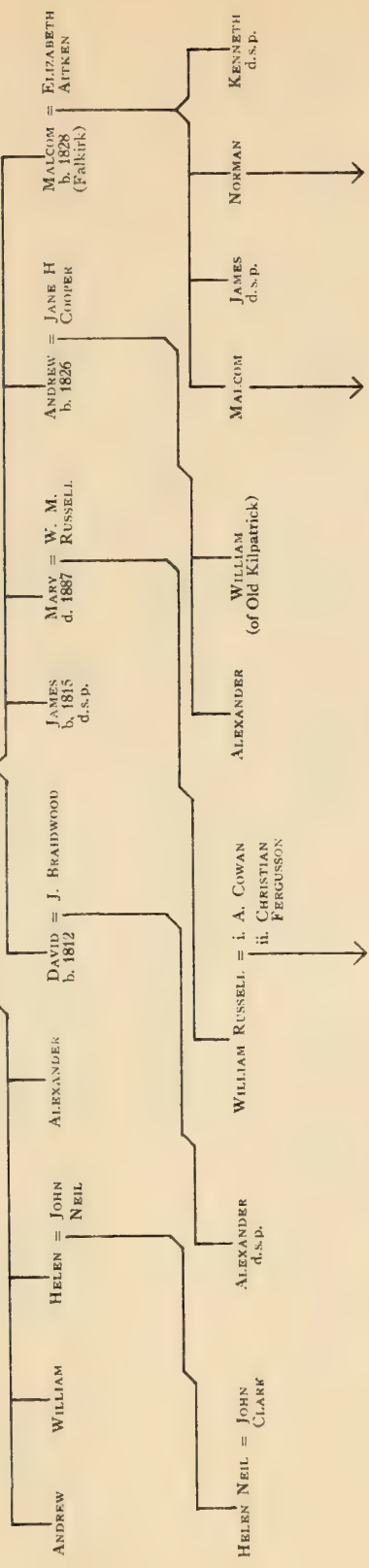
Andrew married one Elspeth Noble, by whom he had a son Alexander, who in course of time became connected with the Carron Ironworks in 1793. He married, first, Margaret Honeyman; secondly, Elizabeth Malcolm; but, with one exception, we are only able to trace the descendants of the second marriage, as shown in accompanying chart.

The pedigree of still another branch has been furnished by Mr. William Miller Cockburn of Heathfield Terrace, Seven Kings, Ilford. For the earlier generations, commencing with a James Cockburn born about 1720, private records (family Bibles, etc.) are responsible, and Duns or the neighbourhood was their home.

Here again tradition has passed down the line that they are descended from Langton some seven or eight generations back, which is probably a fact, but the link with the main stem has yet to be found.

ANDREW COCKBURN = ELSPETH NORIE
from Parish of Temple,
Midlothian

ALEXANDER COCKBURN = i. MARGARET HONEYMAN
at Falkirk, 1793
ii. ELIZABETH MALCOM



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